MARDOCK SCRAMBLE

マルドゥック・スクランブル

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24
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17
32
20
7
2
14
34
15

created by
TOW UBUKATA

manga by
YOSHITOKI OIMA

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Place your bets!

Rune Balot has discovered the location of Shell's erased memories—hidden inside four $100 million casino chips at Eggnog Blue, the casino operated by Shell himself! Will Rune and Dr. Easter be able to turn two thousand dollars into $400 million to recover Shell's memories and hold him accountable for murdering Rune? The casino showdown begins here!

Includes special extras after the story!

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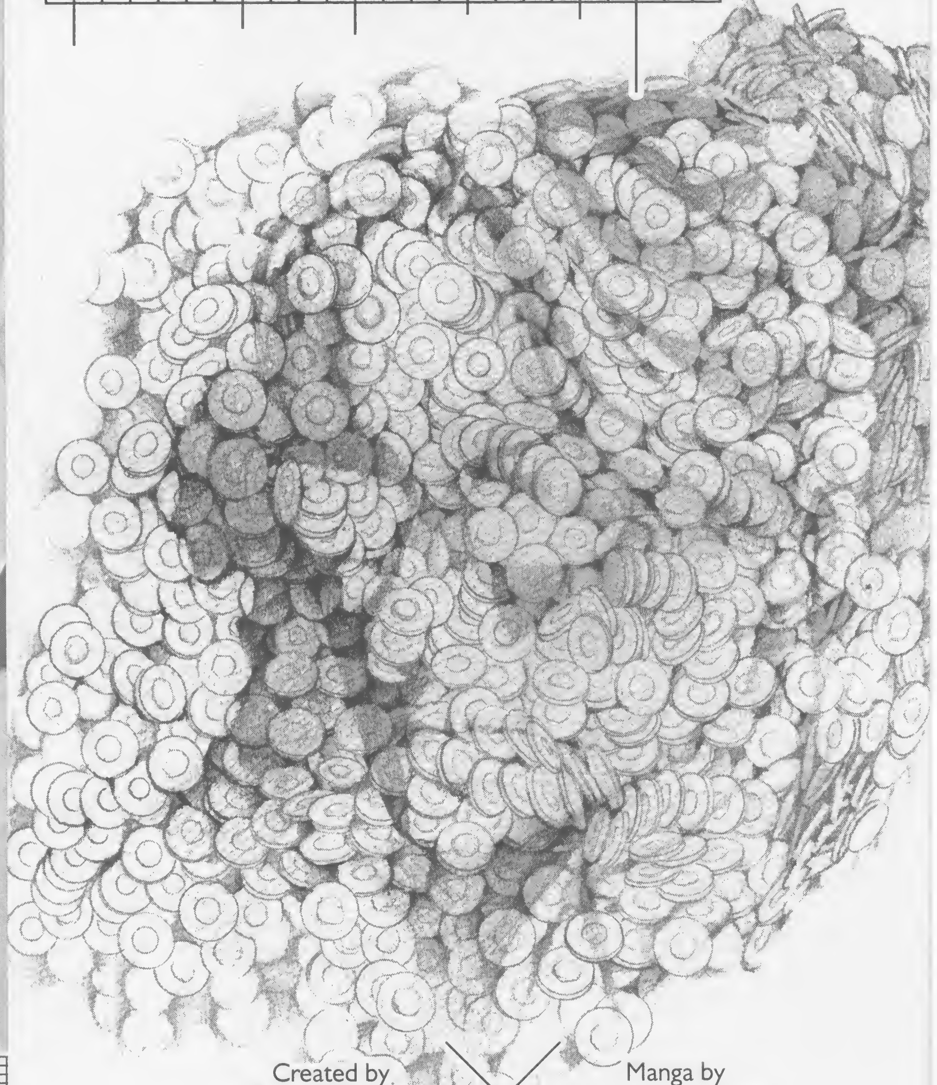

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MARDOCK
SCRAMBLE

Chapter 16: Rotor (2)

MARDOCK SCRAMBLE

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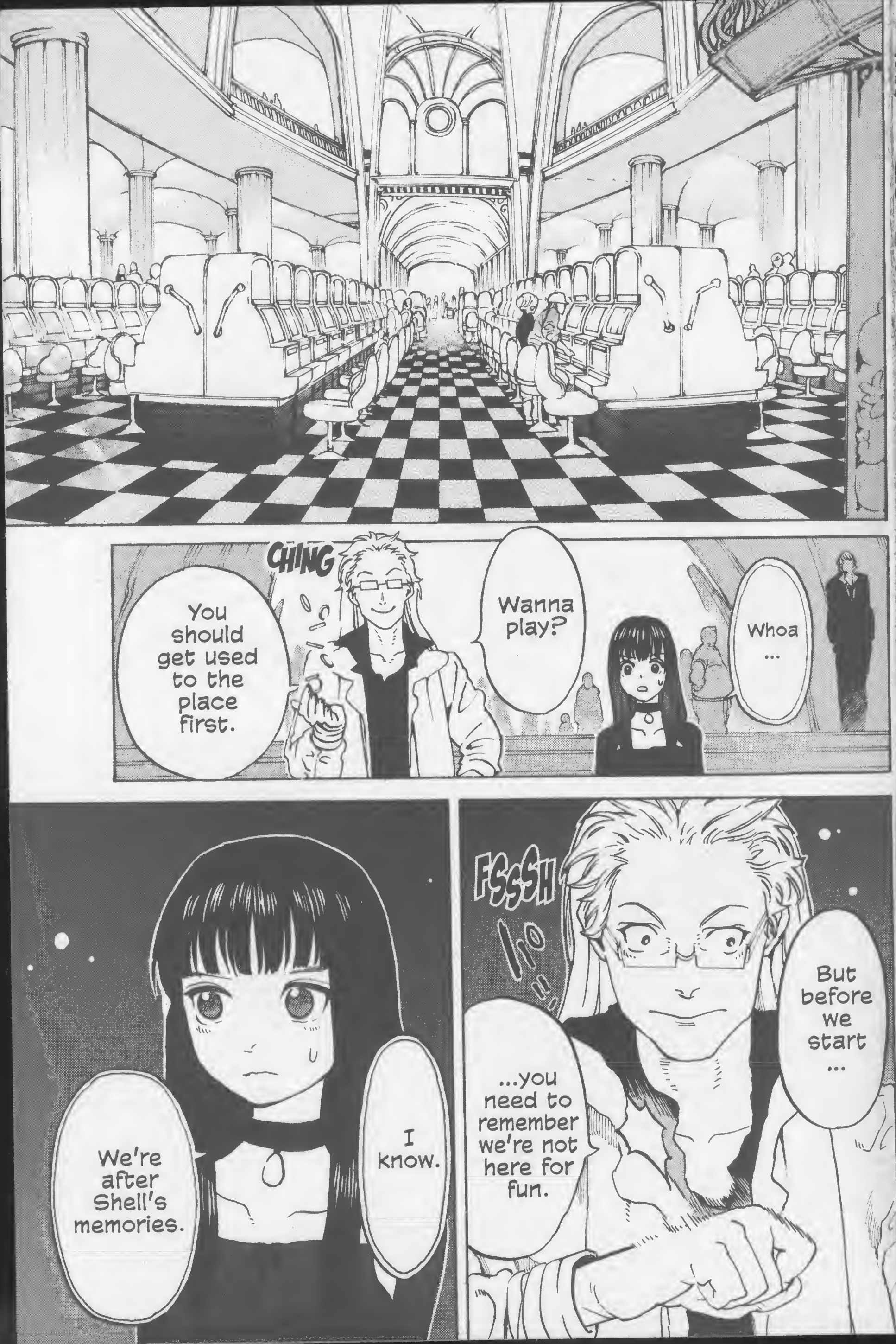

CHING
Whoa ...
Wanna play?
You should get used to the place first.
FSSSH
But before we start ...
...you need to remember we're not here for fun.
I know.
We're after Shell's memories.

SO YOU CAN ENJOY THE CASINO ISSUE" 10 TIMES MORE!

What is Poker?!

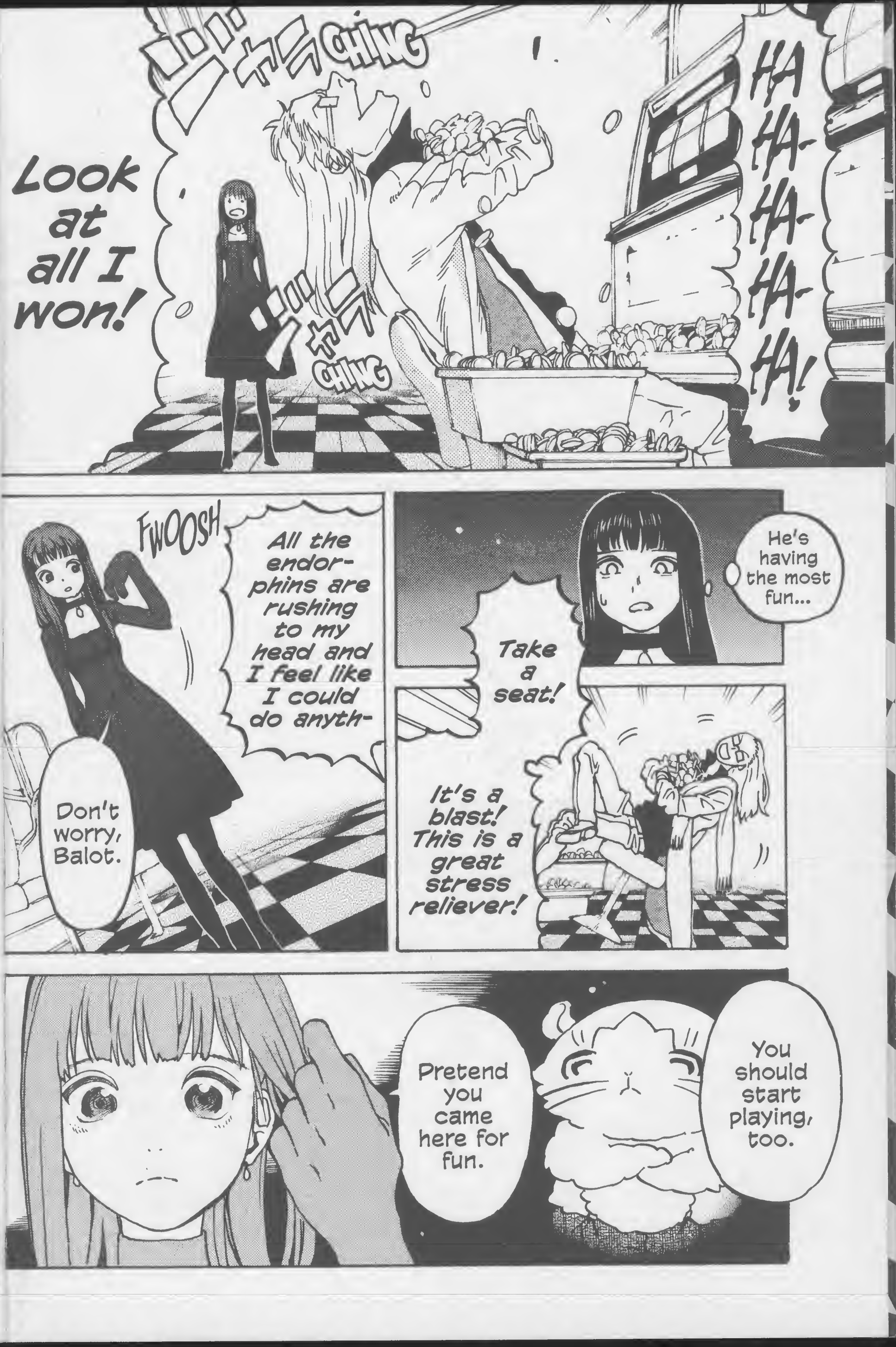
A betting card game using a combination of five cards (called a hand). The game Balot is playing, "Texas Hold 'em" is a type of poker game. Each player gets 2 cards, plus the dealer's 5 community cards. Whoever gets the best hand out of the 7 cards wins! The possible hands are listed below from weakest to strongest. Hope this helps you enjoy the casino issue more!

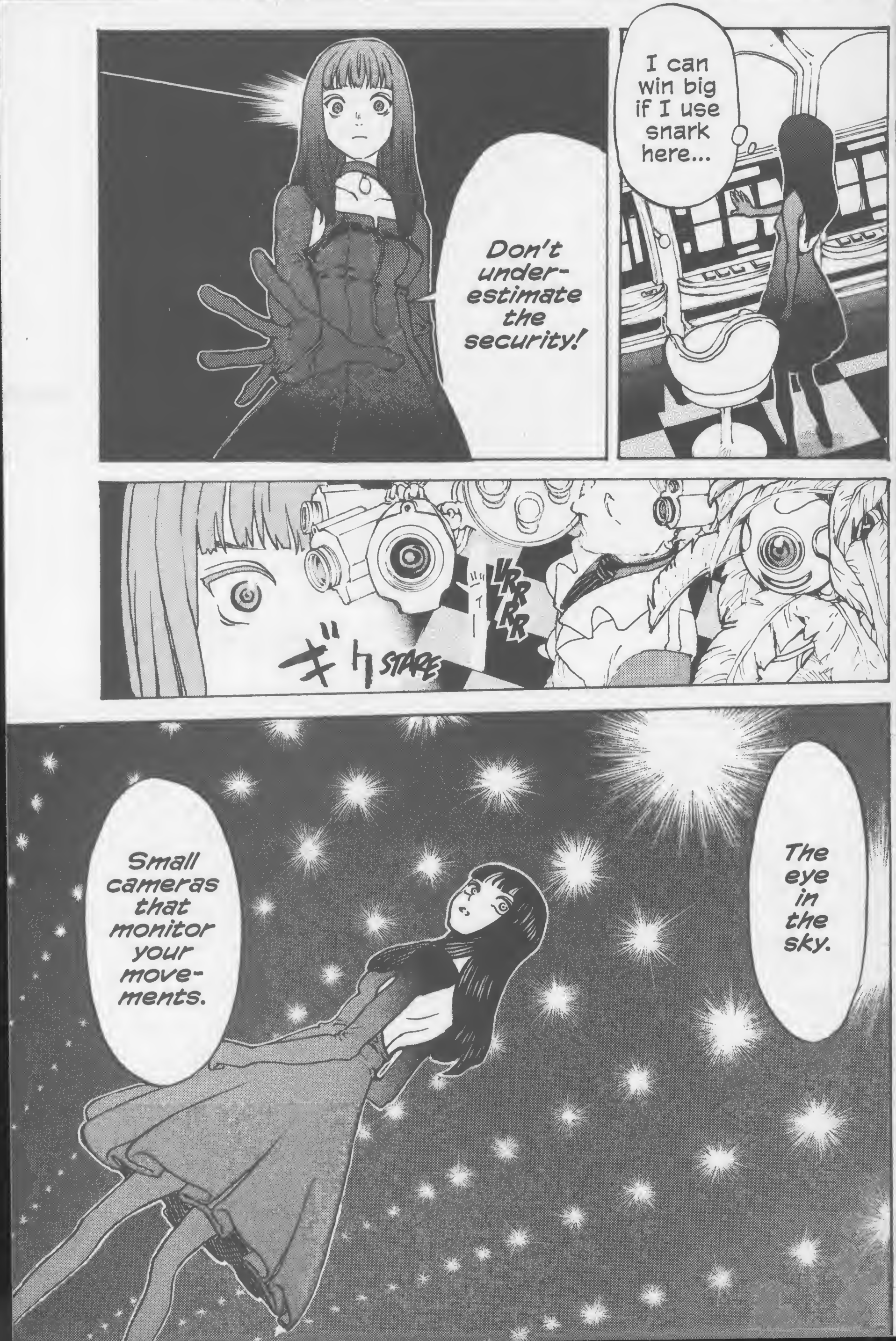
弱

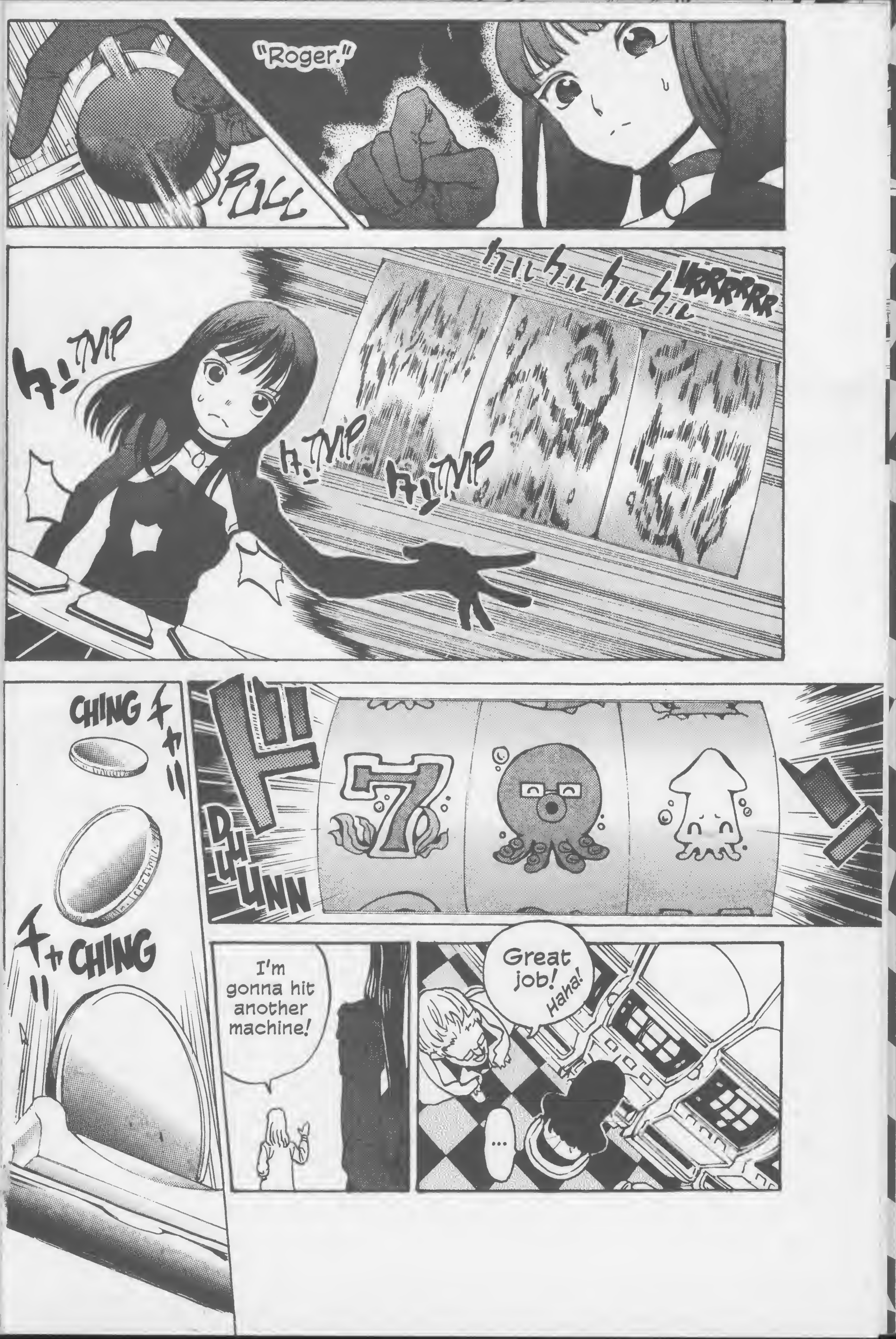
One pair	♥ 10	♦ 10	♠ 7	♣ J	♥ 3	Two cards of the same number
Two pair	♦ 7	♣ 7	♥ Q	♦ Q	♥ 4	Two pairs
Three of a Kind	♠ J	♥ J	♦ J	♦ 3	♣ K	Three cards of the same number
Straight	♦ 4	♣ 5	♥ 6	♥ 7	♠ 8	Five cards in numerical order
Flush	♦ 3	♦ 5	♦ 6	♦ J	♦ K	Five cards of the same suit
Full house	♣ J	♥ J	♠ 10	♥ 10	♦ 10	One pair and three of a kind
Four of a Kind	♦ K	♥ K	♣ K	♠ K	♥ 3	Four cards of the same number
Straight Flush	♥ 7	♥ 8	♥ 9	♥ 10	♥ J	Five cards in numerical order of the same suit
Royal Flush	♠ 10	♠ J	♠ Q	♠ K	♠ A	10-A of the same suit

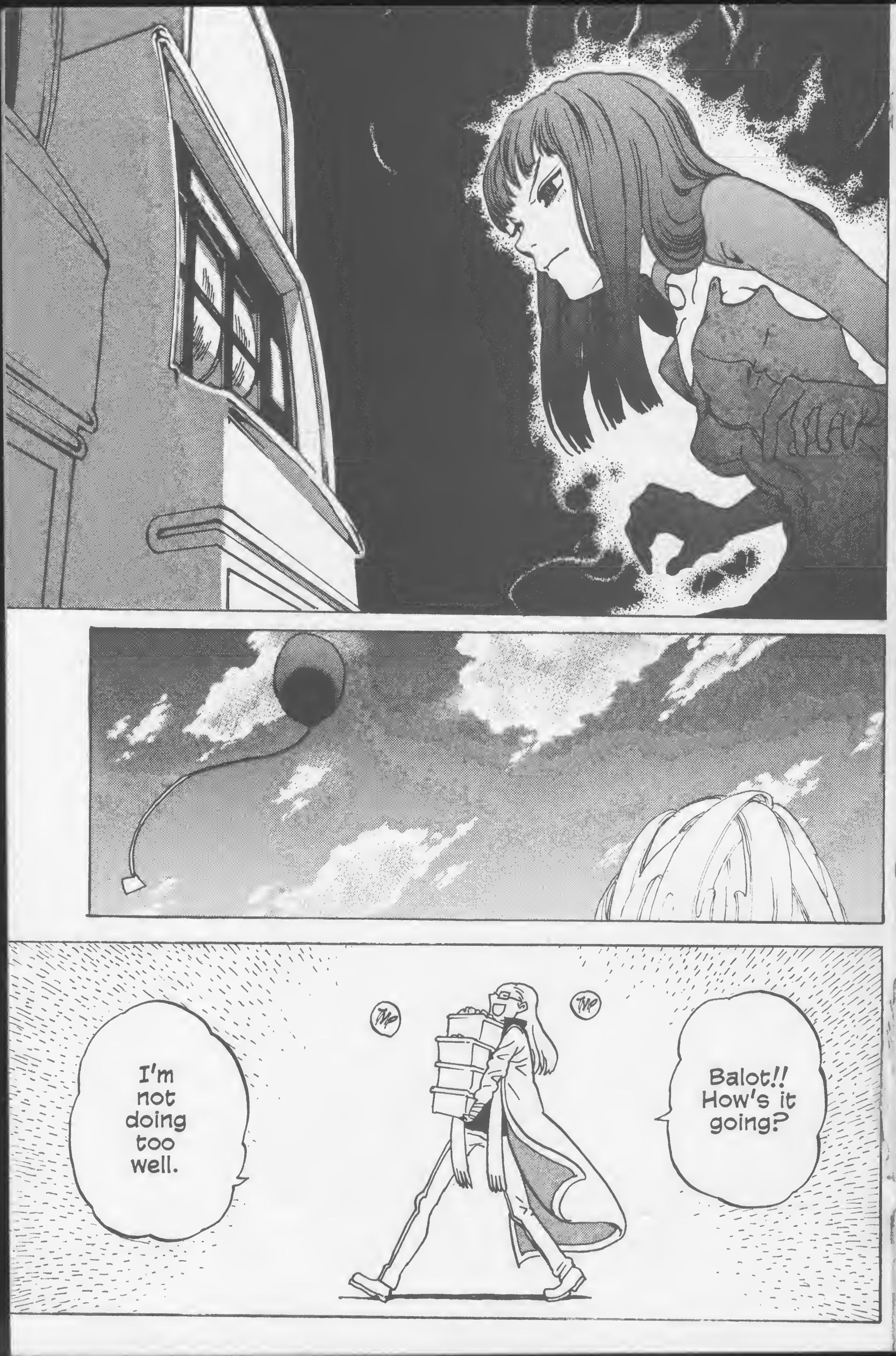
強

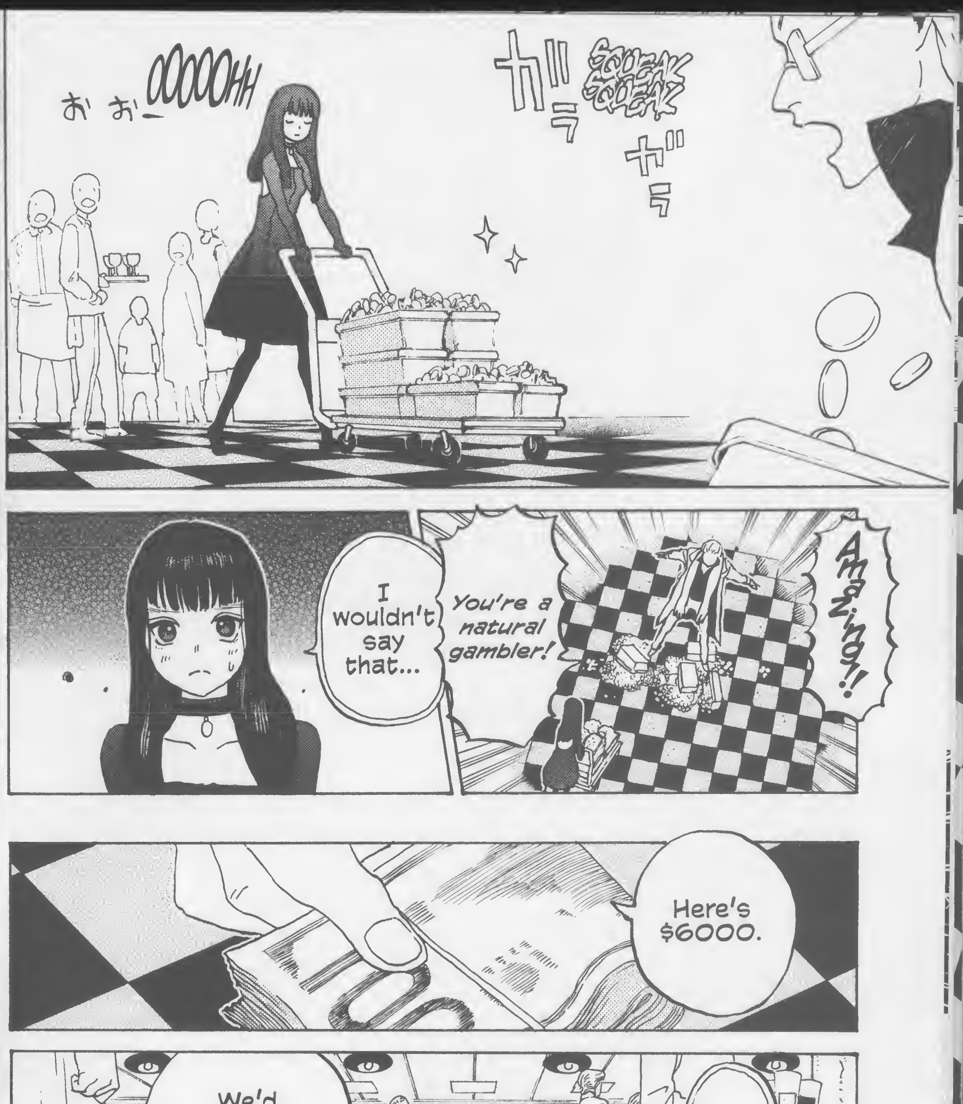
Well? I hope my explanation helped you understand poker a little better! Now the casino issue begins! Have fun!

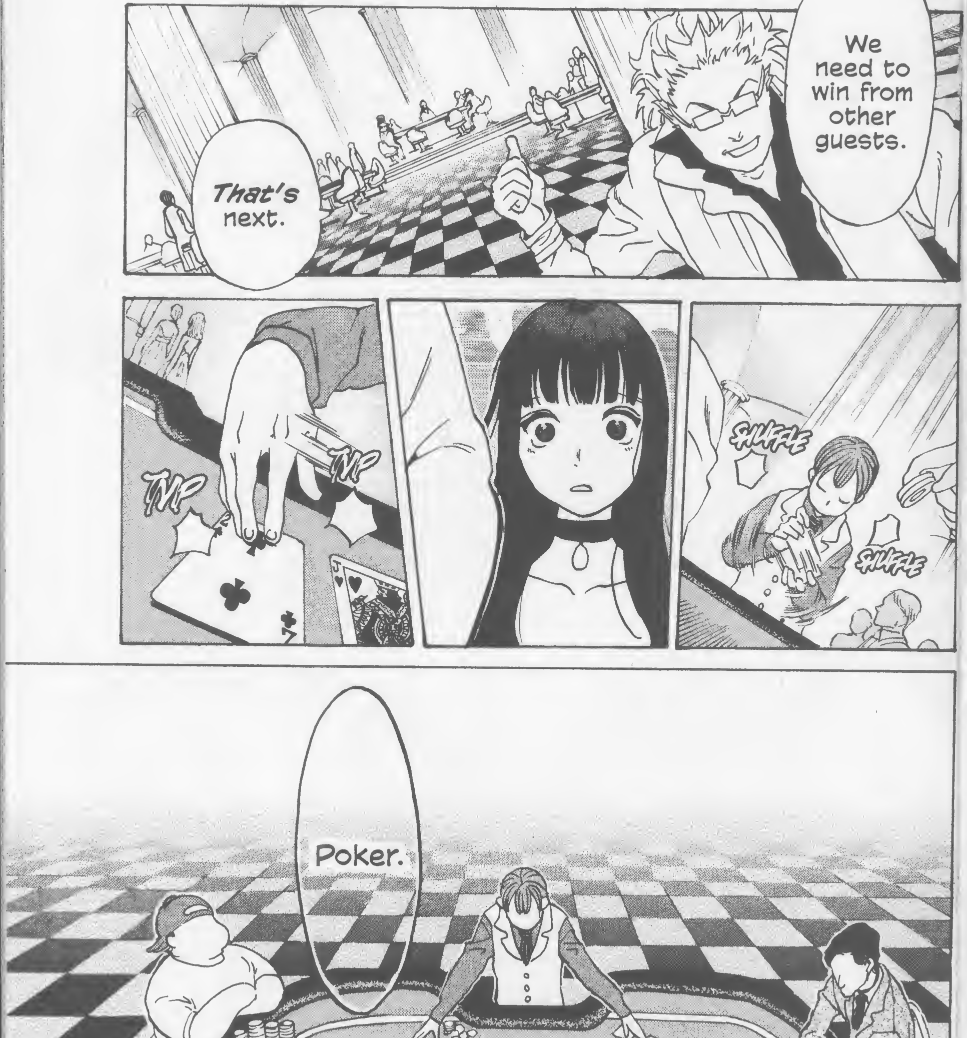

HA HA HA HA HA HA!
ジャラ CHING
Look at all I won!
ジャラ CHING
He's having the most fun...
Take a seat!
It's a blast! This is a great stress reliever!
FWOOSH
All the endorphins are rushing to my head and I feel like I could do anyth-
Don't worry, Balot.
You should start playing, too.
Pretend you came here for fun.

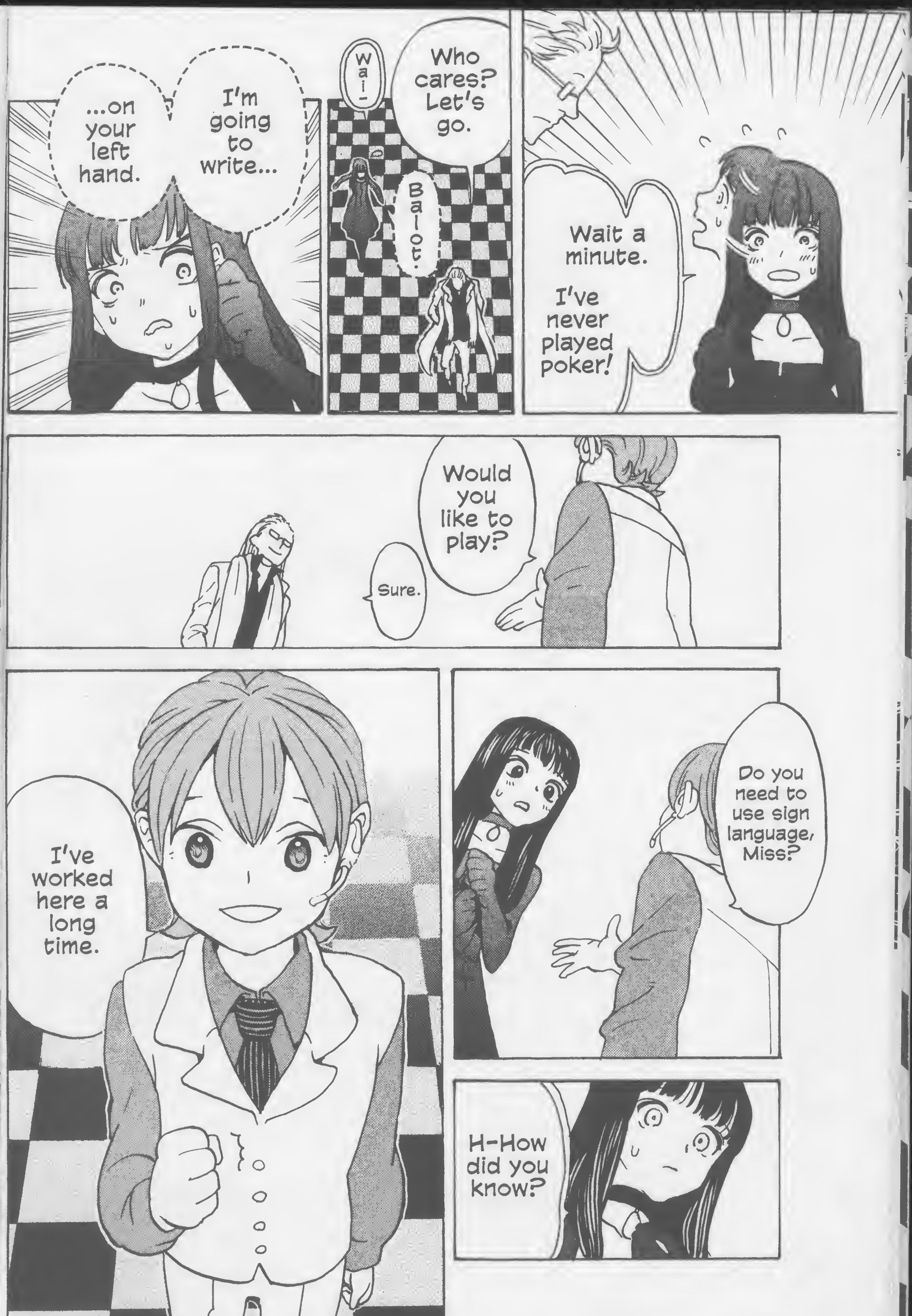

I can win big if I use snark here...
Don't under-estimate the security!
VRRRR
ギク STARE
The eye in the sky.
Small cameras that monitor your move-ments.

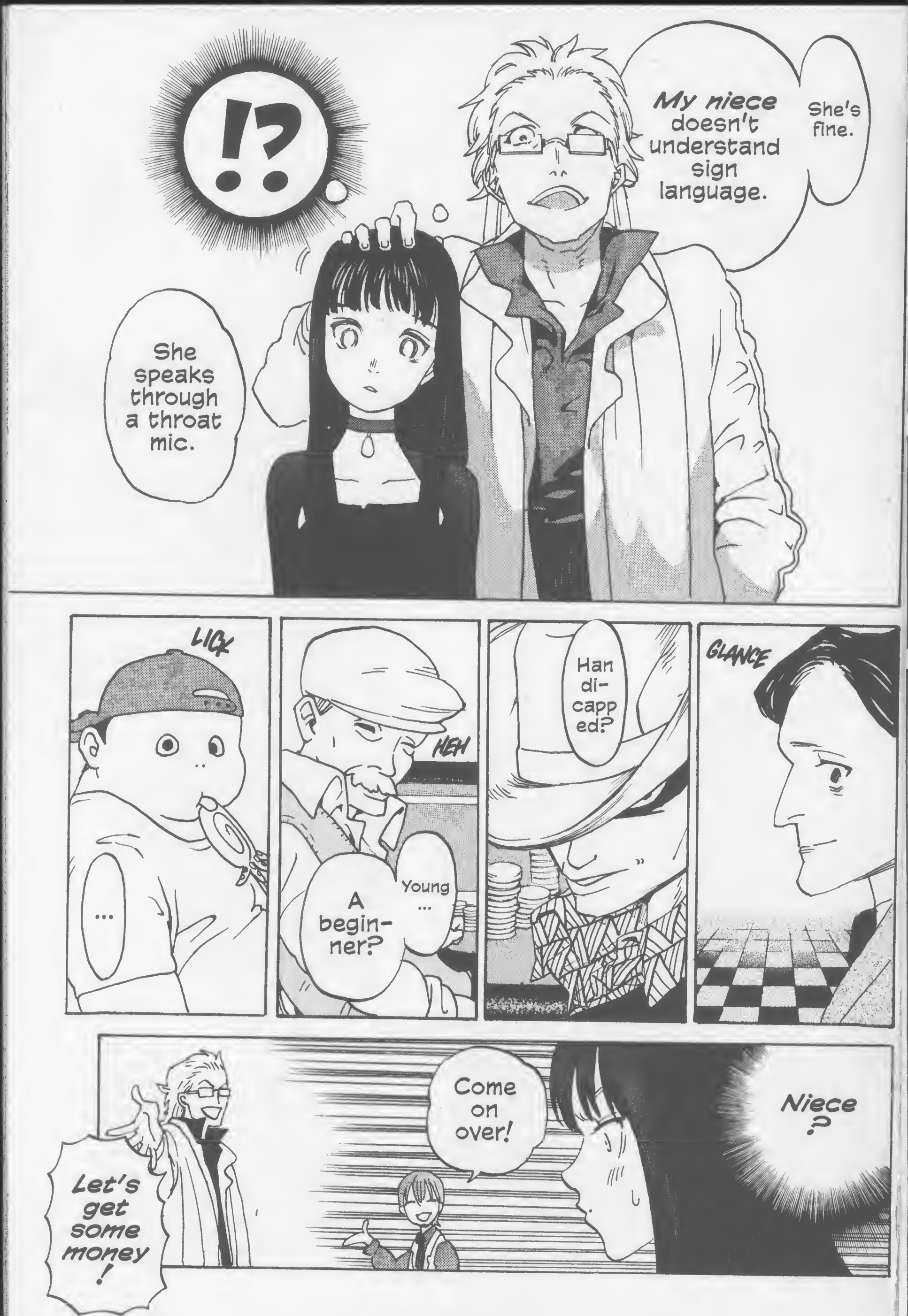

"Roger."
PULL
クルクル クルクル
URRRRRRR
トッ TMP
トッ TMP
トッ TMP
CHING チャリ
ド DUHUNN
チャリ CHING
Great job! Haha!
I'm gonna hit another machine!
...

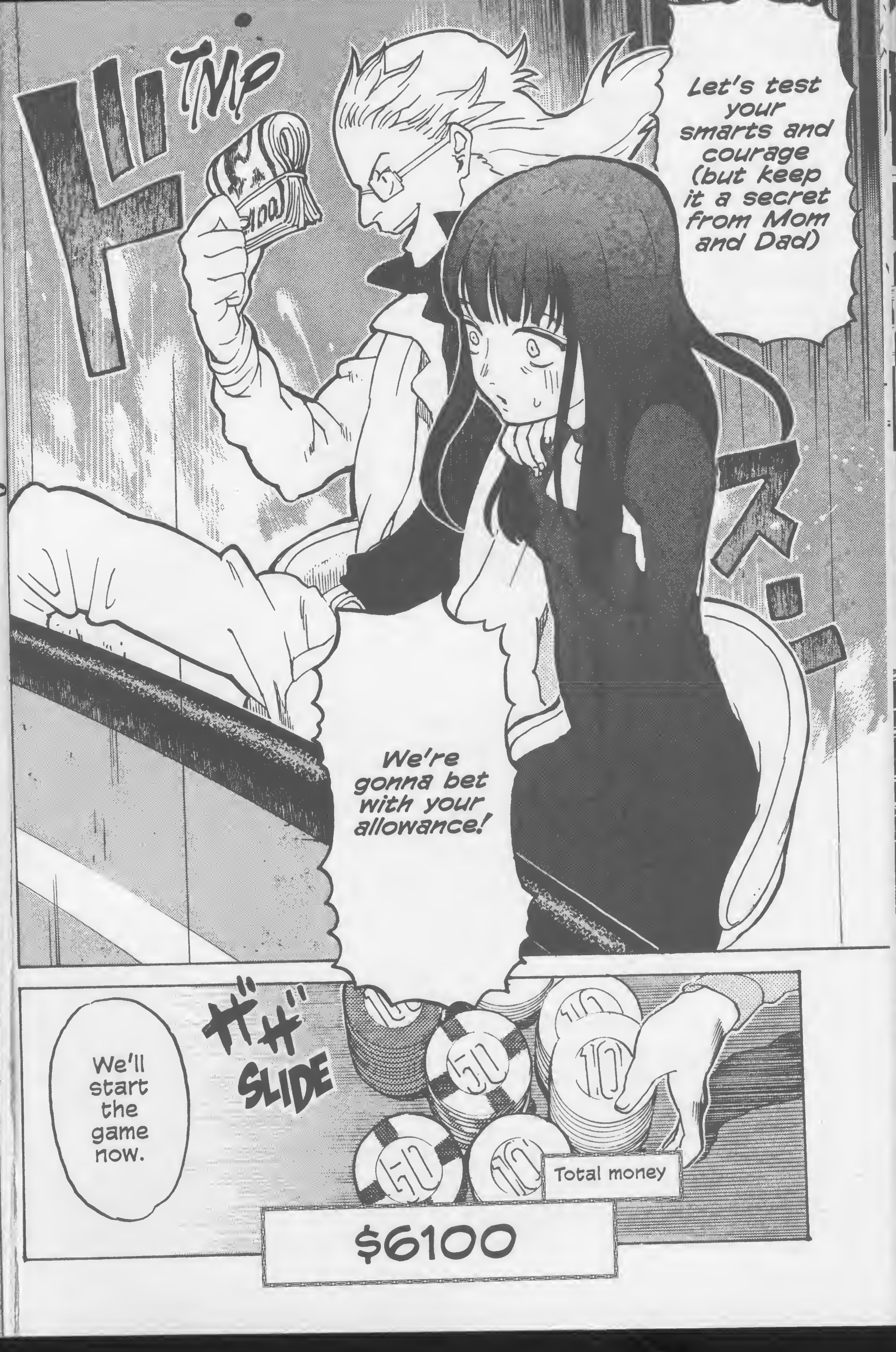

TMP
TMP
Balot!! How's it going?
I'm not doing too well.

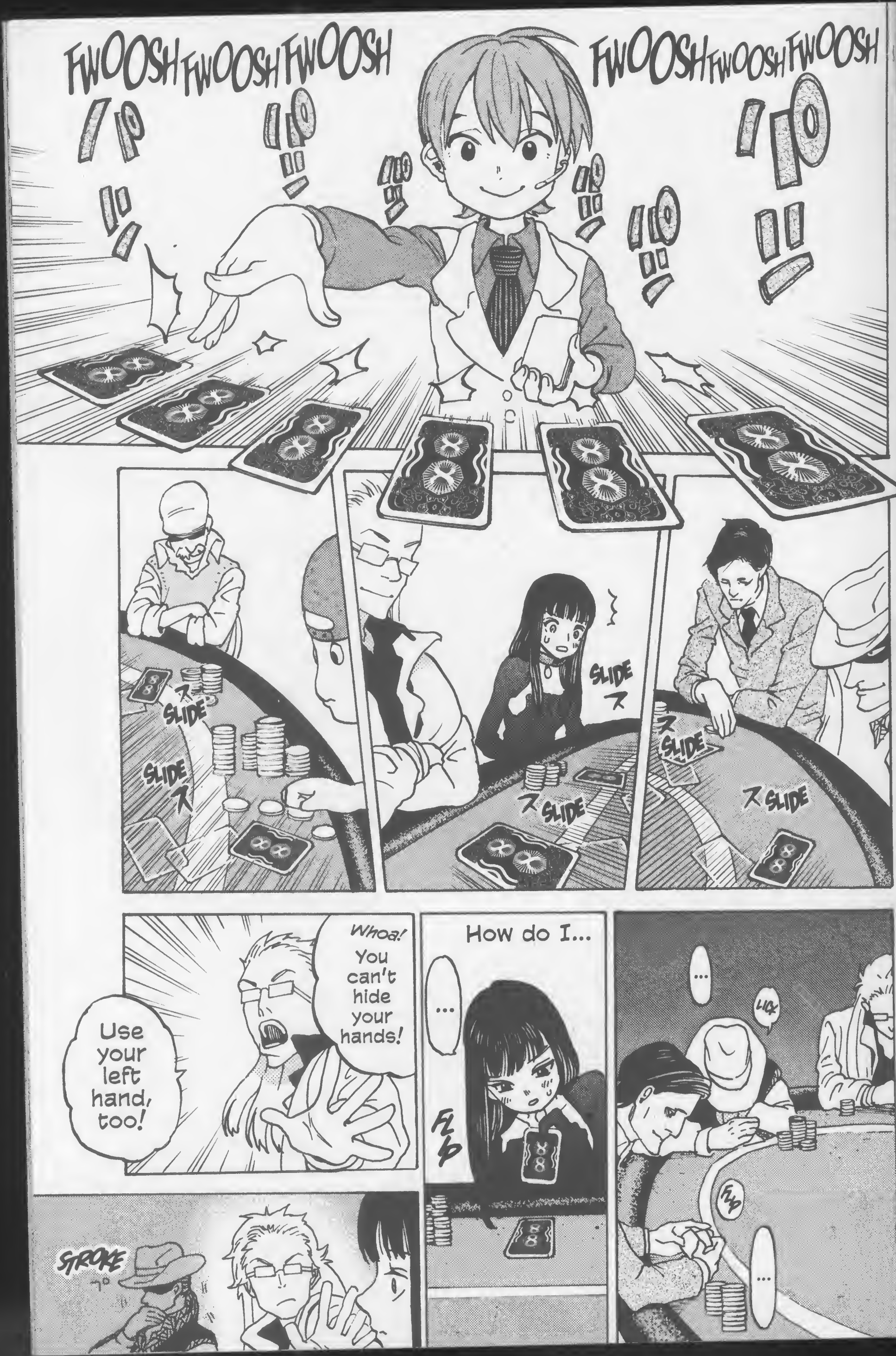

SQUEAK SQUEAK
ガラ
ガラ
おお
OOOOOHH
Amazing!!
You're a natural gambler!
I wouldn't say that...
Here's $6000.
Now what?
More slots?
We'd only get $200,000 tops with slots.
We need something where we have more control.

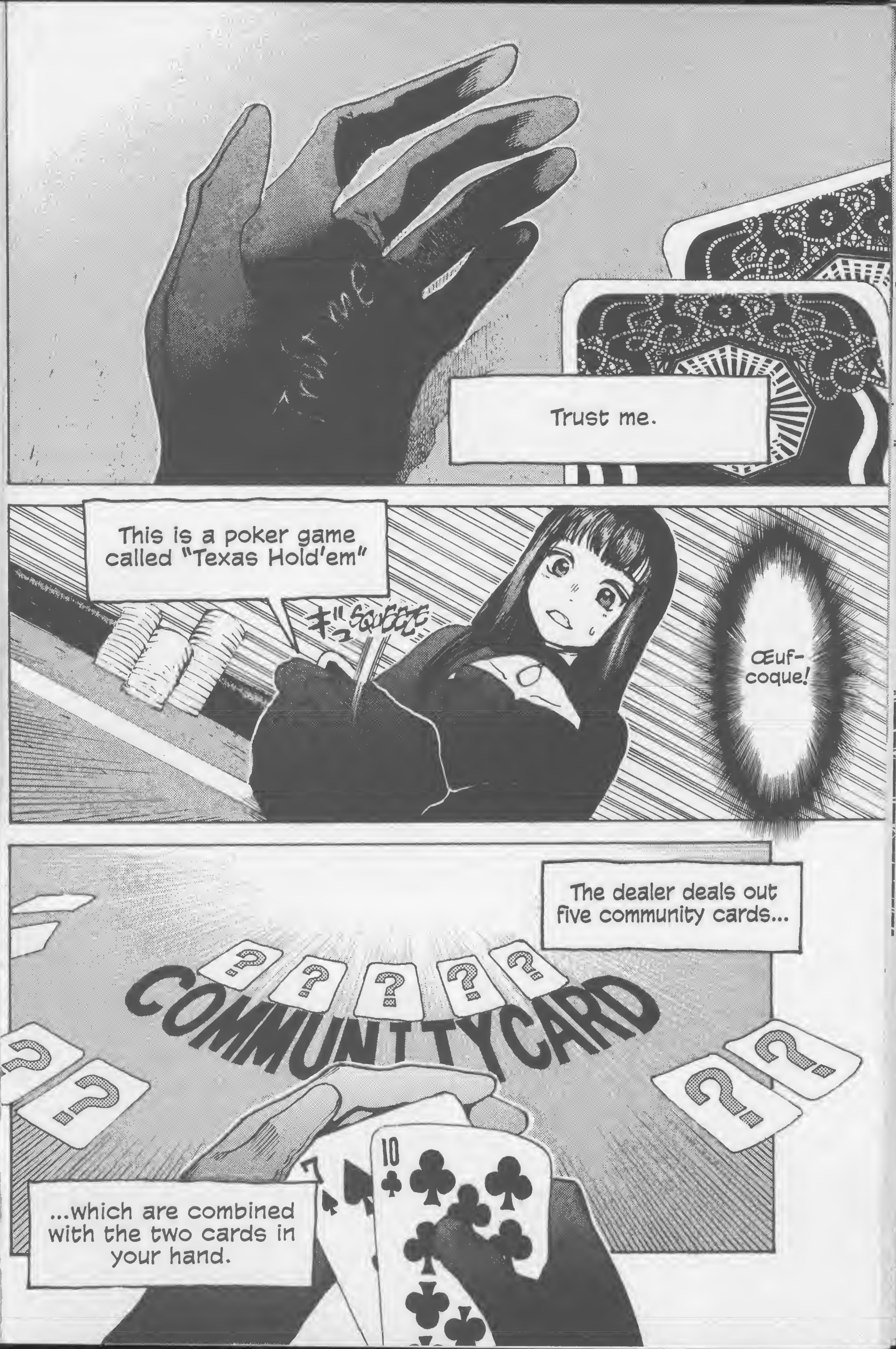

We need to win from other guests.
That's next.
SHUFFLE
SHUFFLE
TAP
TAP
Poker.

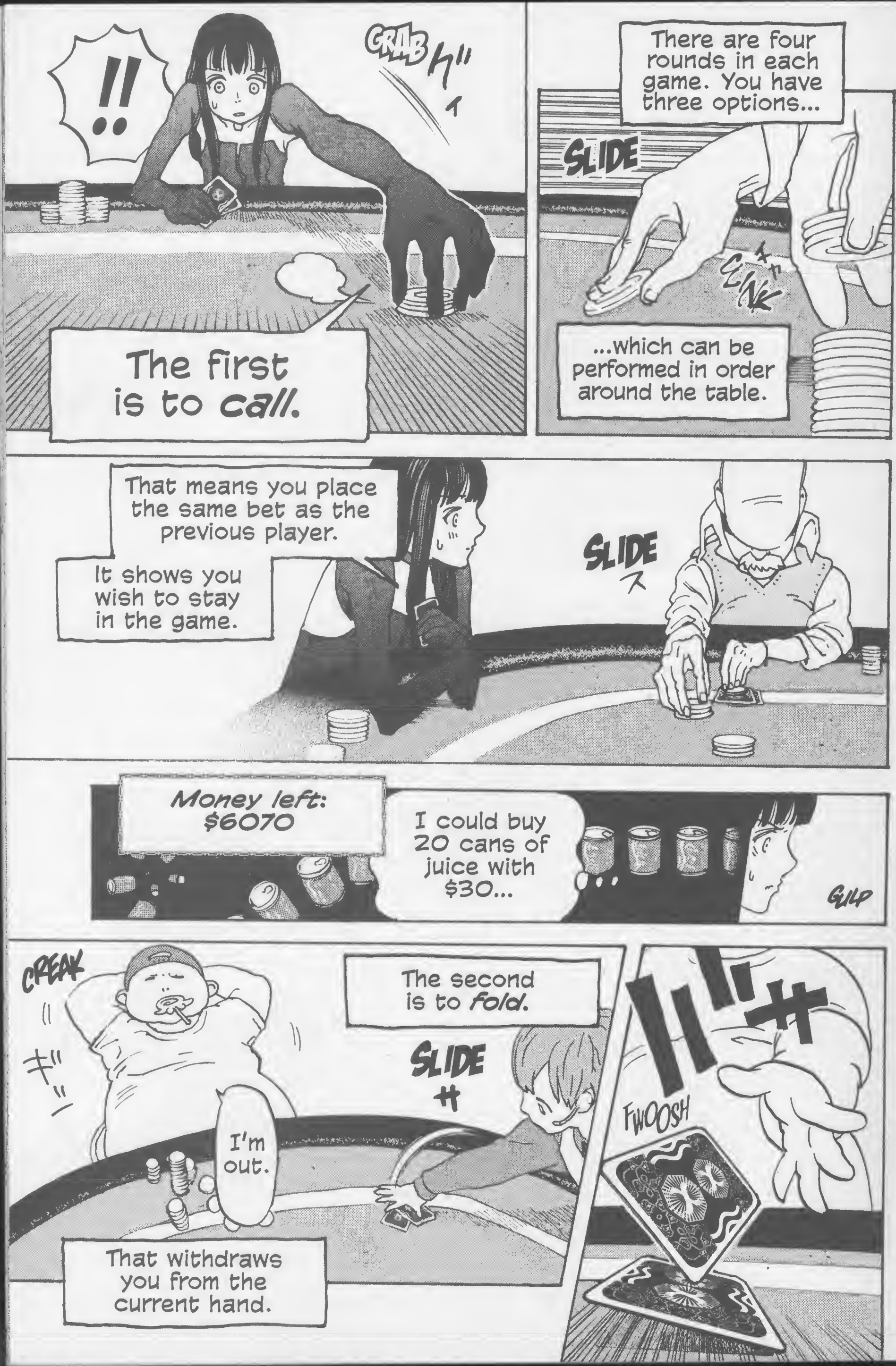

Wait a minute.
I've never played poker!
Who cares? Let's go.
Wai-
Balot.
I'm going to write...
...on your left hand.
Would you like to play?
Sure.
Do you need to use sign language, Miss?
H-How did you know?
I've worked here a long time.

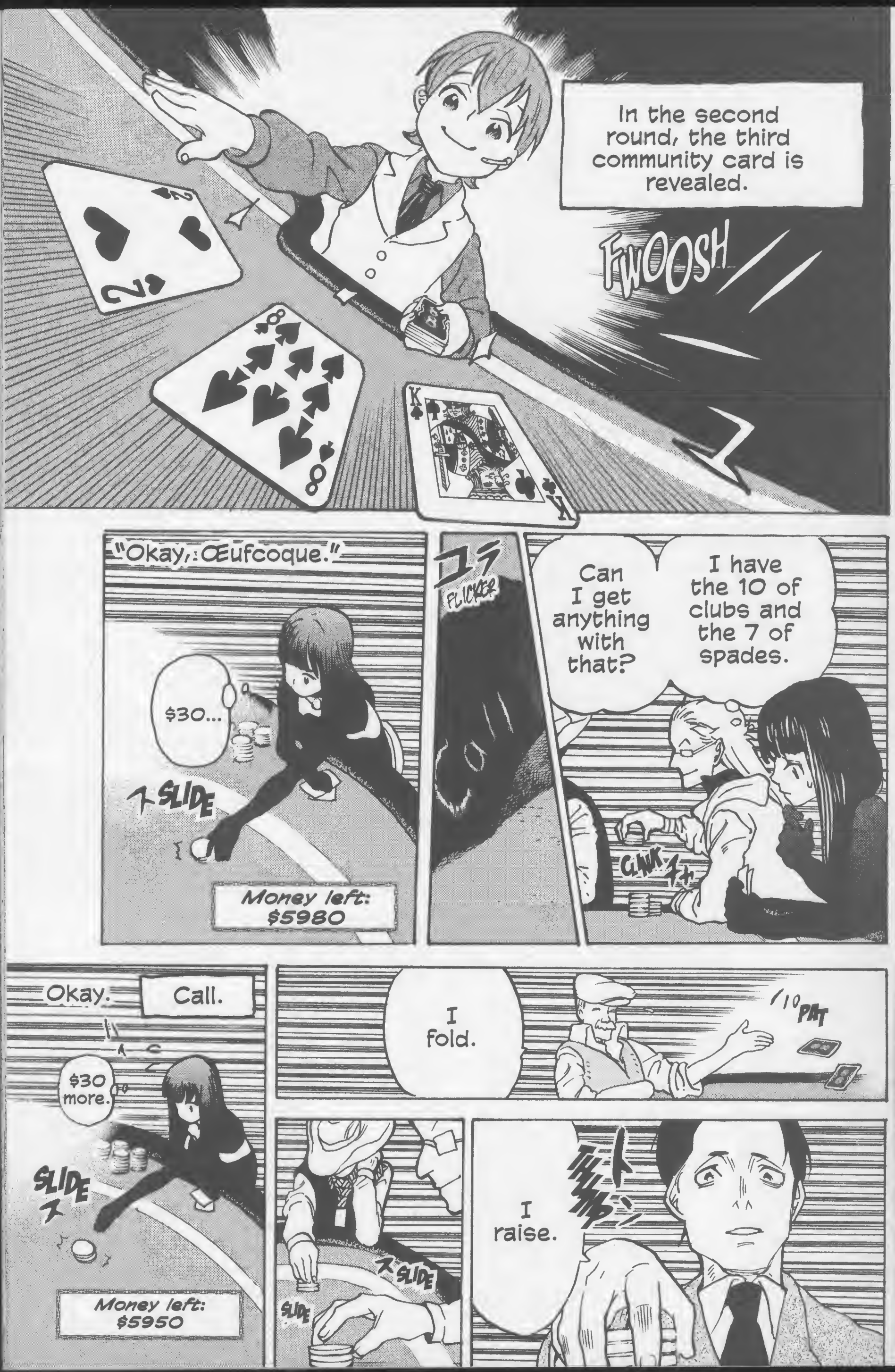

She's fine.
My niece doesn't understand sign language.
!?
She speaks through a throat mic.
GLANCE
Han di-capp ed?
HEH
Young ...
A begin-ner?
LICK
...
Niece?
Come on over!
Let's get some money!

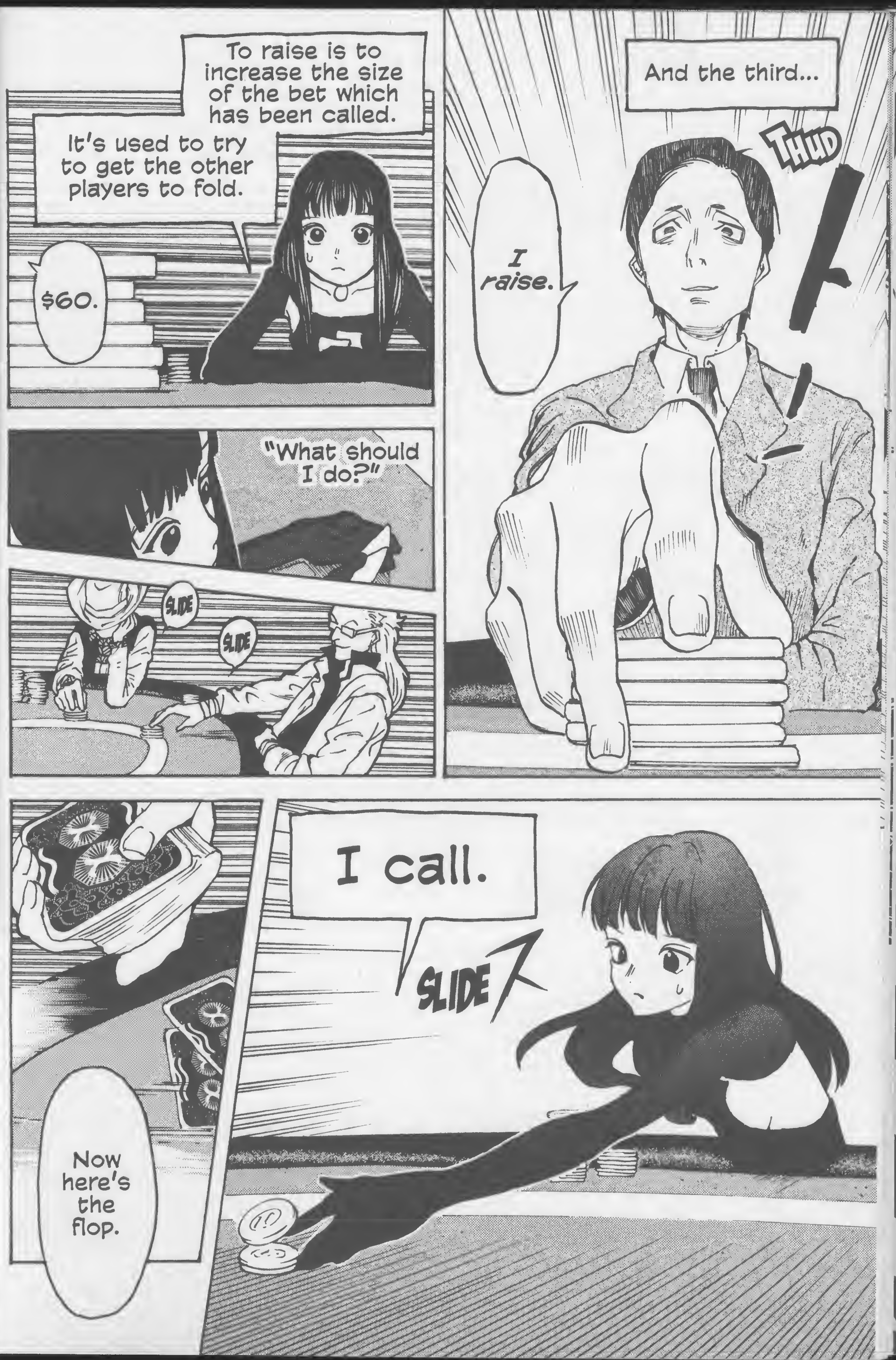

TMP
Let's test your smarts and courage (but keep it a secret from Mom and Dad)
We're gonna bet with your allowance!
SLIDE
We'll start the game now.
Total money
$6100

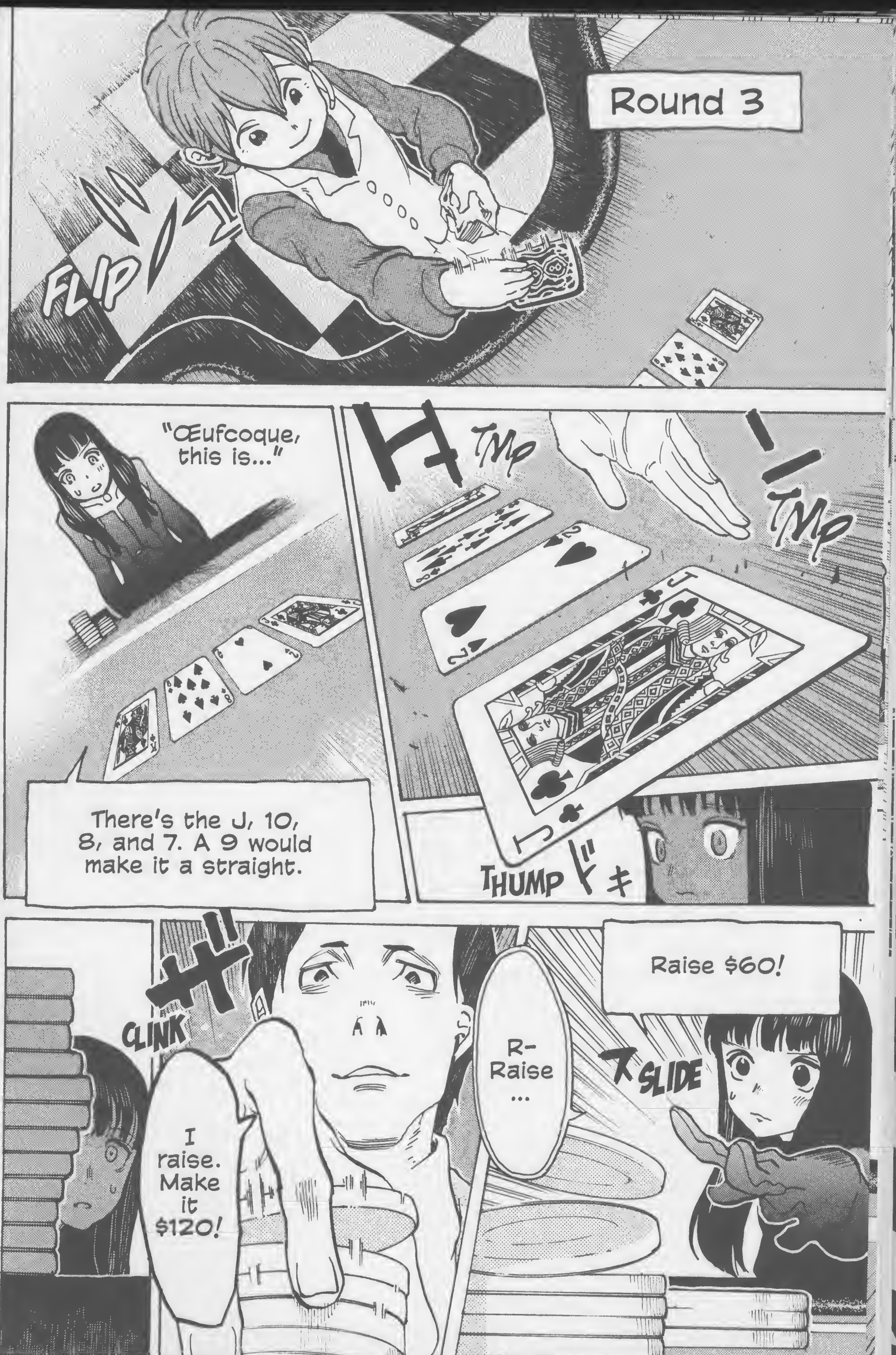

FWOOSH FWOOSH FWOOSH
FWOOSH FWOOSH FWOOSH
SLIDE
SLIDE
SLIDE
SLIDE
SLIDE
SLIDE
...
LICK
...
How do I...
...
FLIP
Whoa! You can't hide your hands!
Use your left hand, too!
STROKE

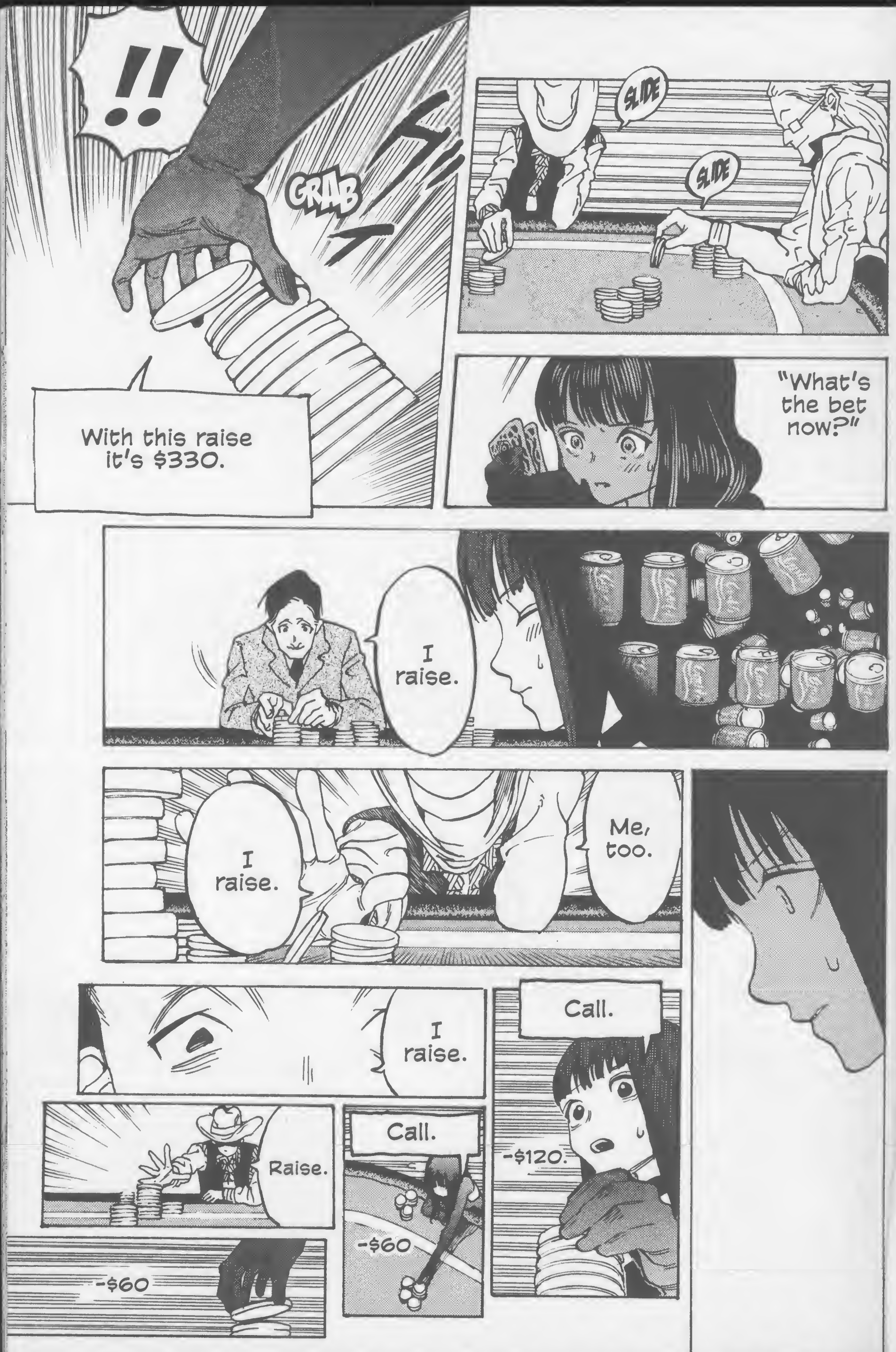

TRUST ME
Trust me.
This is a poker game called "Texas Hold'em"
ギュ SQUEEEE
Œuf-coque!
The dealer deals out five community cards...
COMMUNITYCARD
...which are combined with the two cards in your hand.

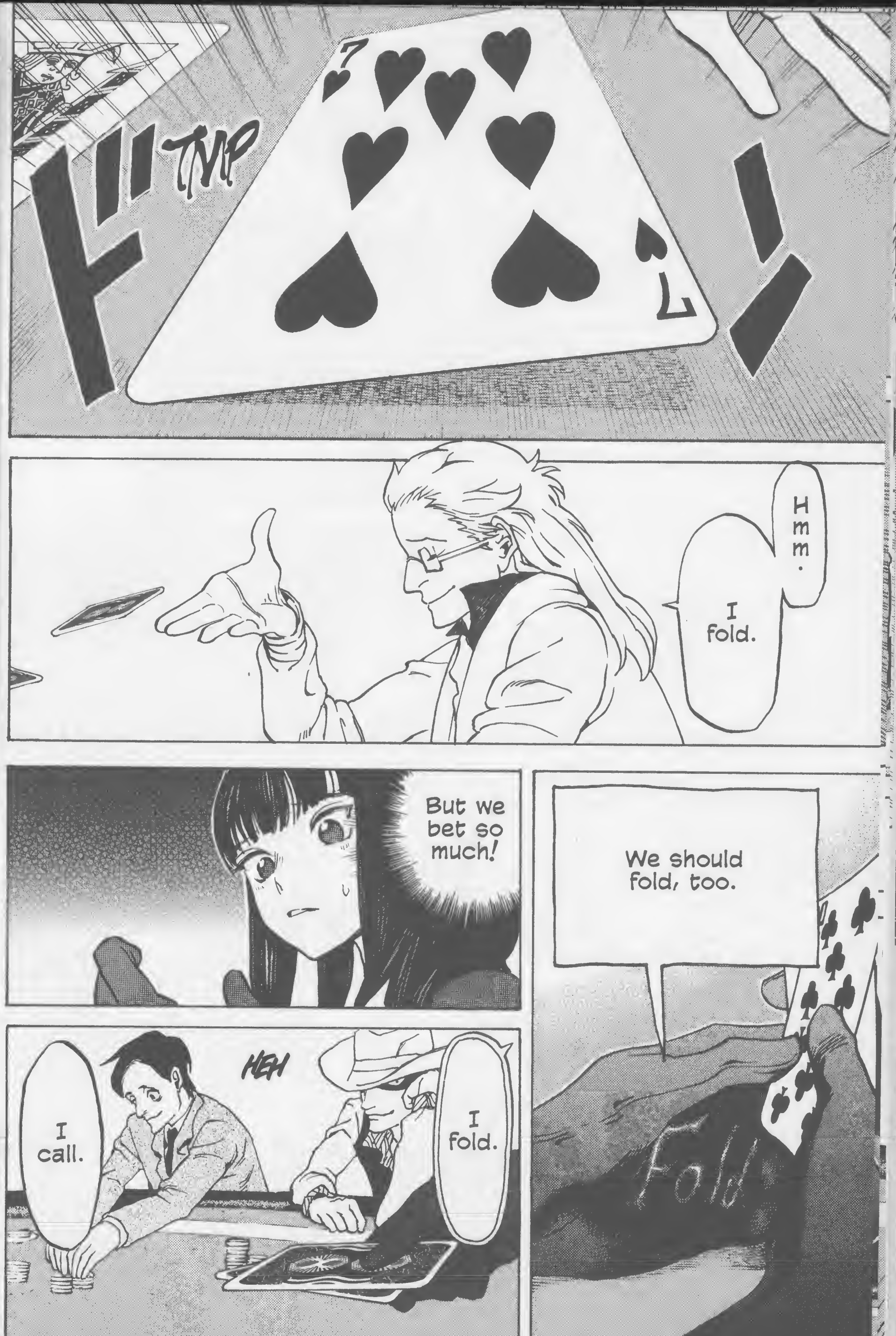

There are four rounds in each game. You have three options...
SLIDE
CLINK チャ
...which can be performed in order around the table.
GRAB ガッ
!!
The first is to call.
That means you place the same bet as the previous player.
It shows you wish to stay in the game.
SLIDE ス
Money left: $6070
I could buy 20 cans of juice with $30...
GULP
The second is to fold.
CREAK ギッ
SLIDE サ
I'm out.
That withdraws you from the current hand.
FWOOSH
バサ

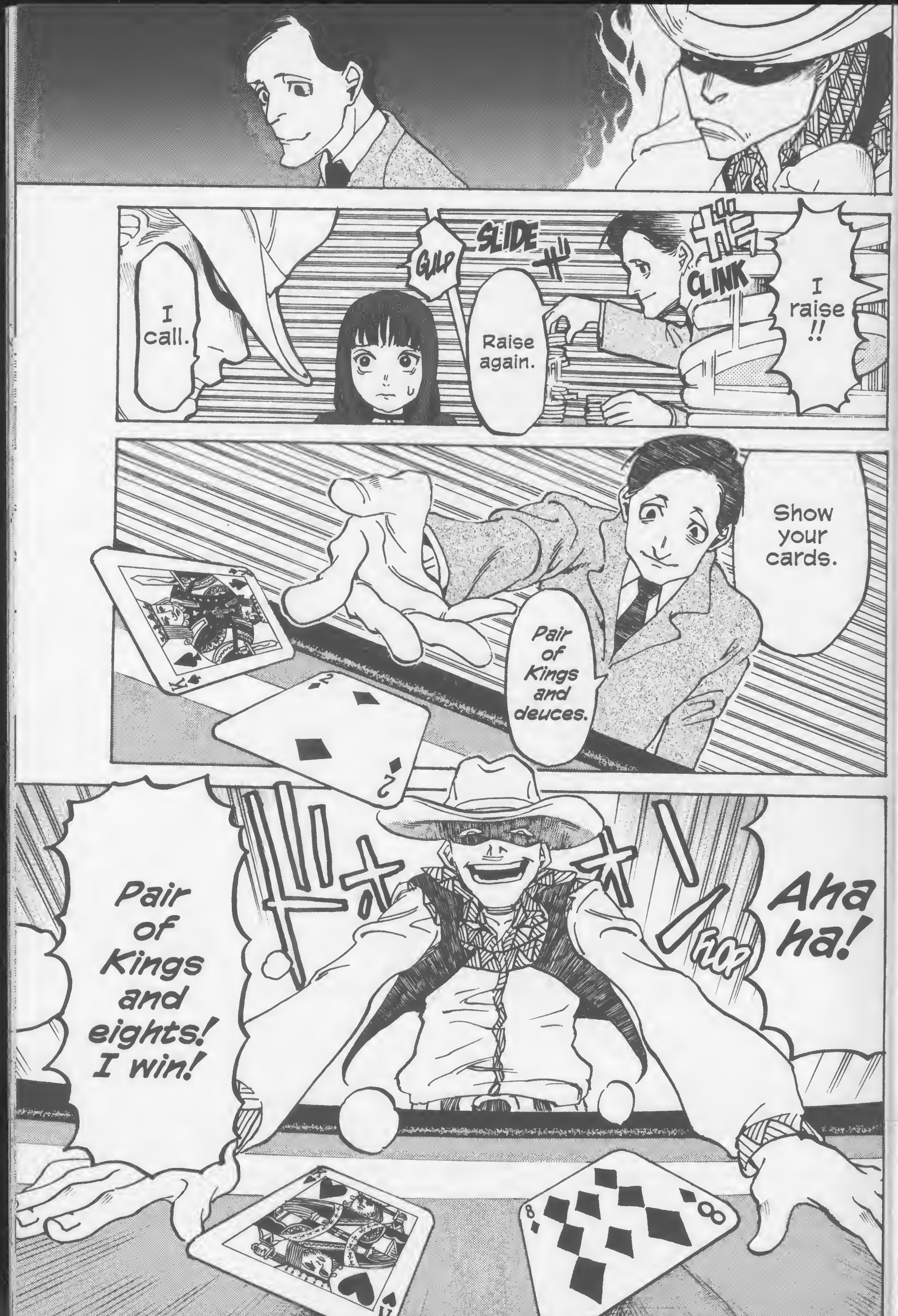

In the second round, the third community card is revealed.
FWOOSH
"Okay, Œufcoque."
$30...
SLIDE
Money left: $5980
FLICKER
I have the 10 of clubs and the 7 of spades.
Can I get anything with that?
CLINK
Okay.
Call.
$30 more.
SLIDE
Money left: $5950
I fold.
PAT
SLIDE
SLIDE
I raise.

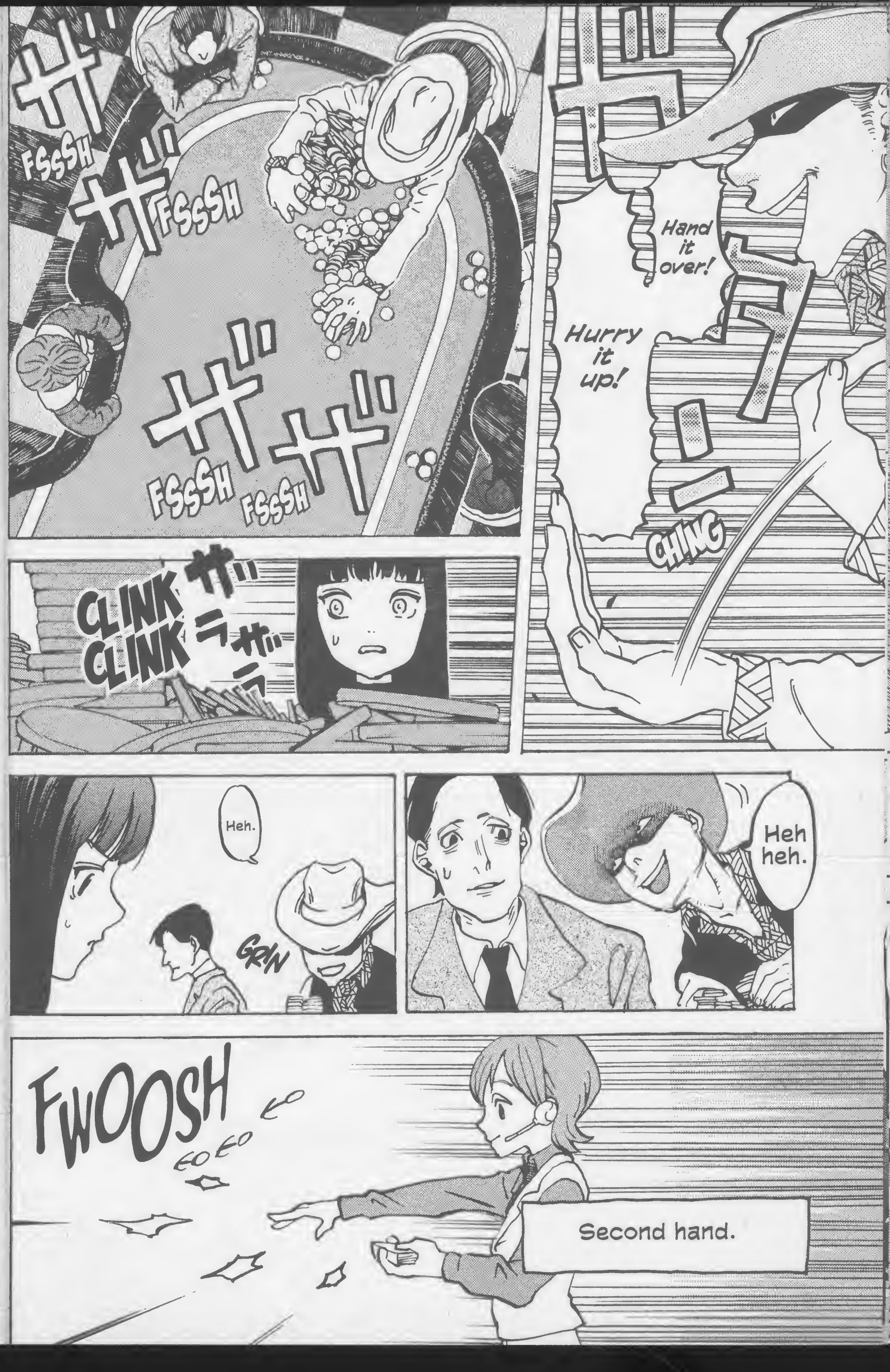

To raise is to increase the size of the bet which has been called.
It's used to try to get the other players to fold.
$60.
And the third...
THUD
I raise.
"What should I do?"
SLIDE
SLIDE
Now here's the flop.
I call.
SLIDE

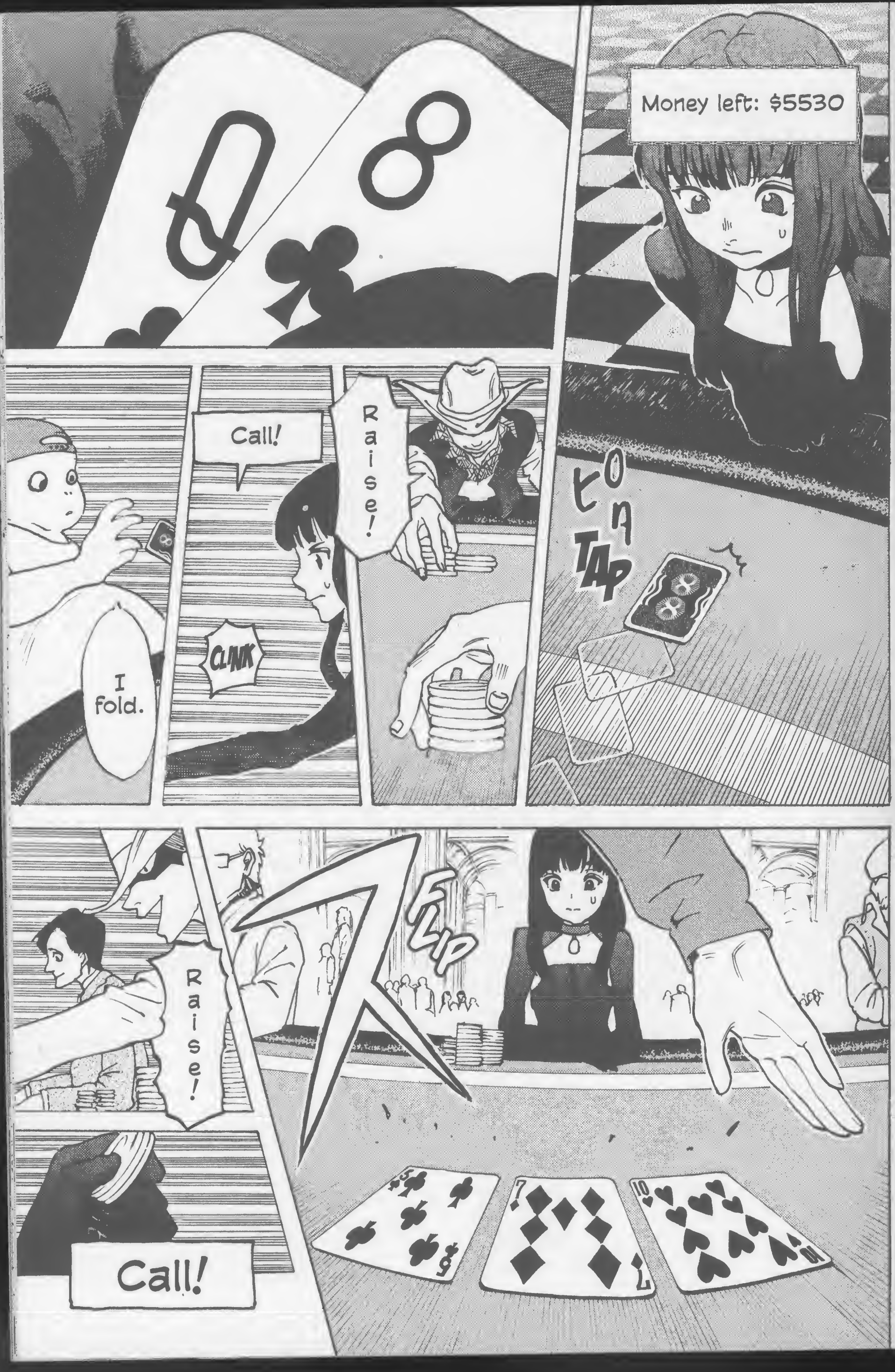

Round 3
FLIP
"Œufcoque, this is..."
There's the J, 10, 8, and 7. A 9 would make it a straight.
THUMP
ドキ
Raise $60!
SLIDE
R-Raise...
I raise. Make it $120!
CLINK

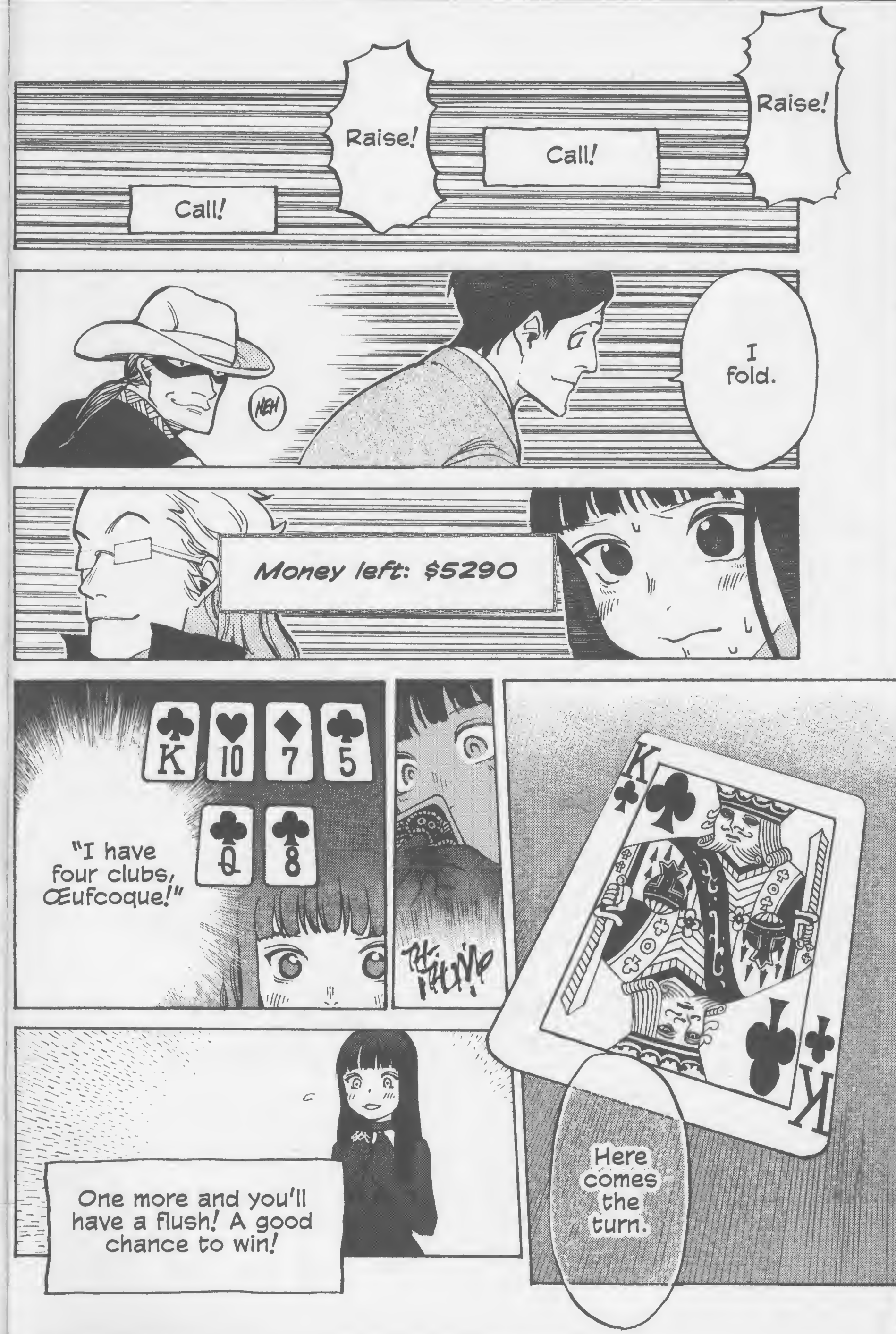

SLIDE
SLIDE
"What's the bet now?"
!!
GRAB
With this raise it's $330.
I raise.
Me, too.
I raise.
I raise.
Call.
-$120
Call.
-$60
Raise.
-$60

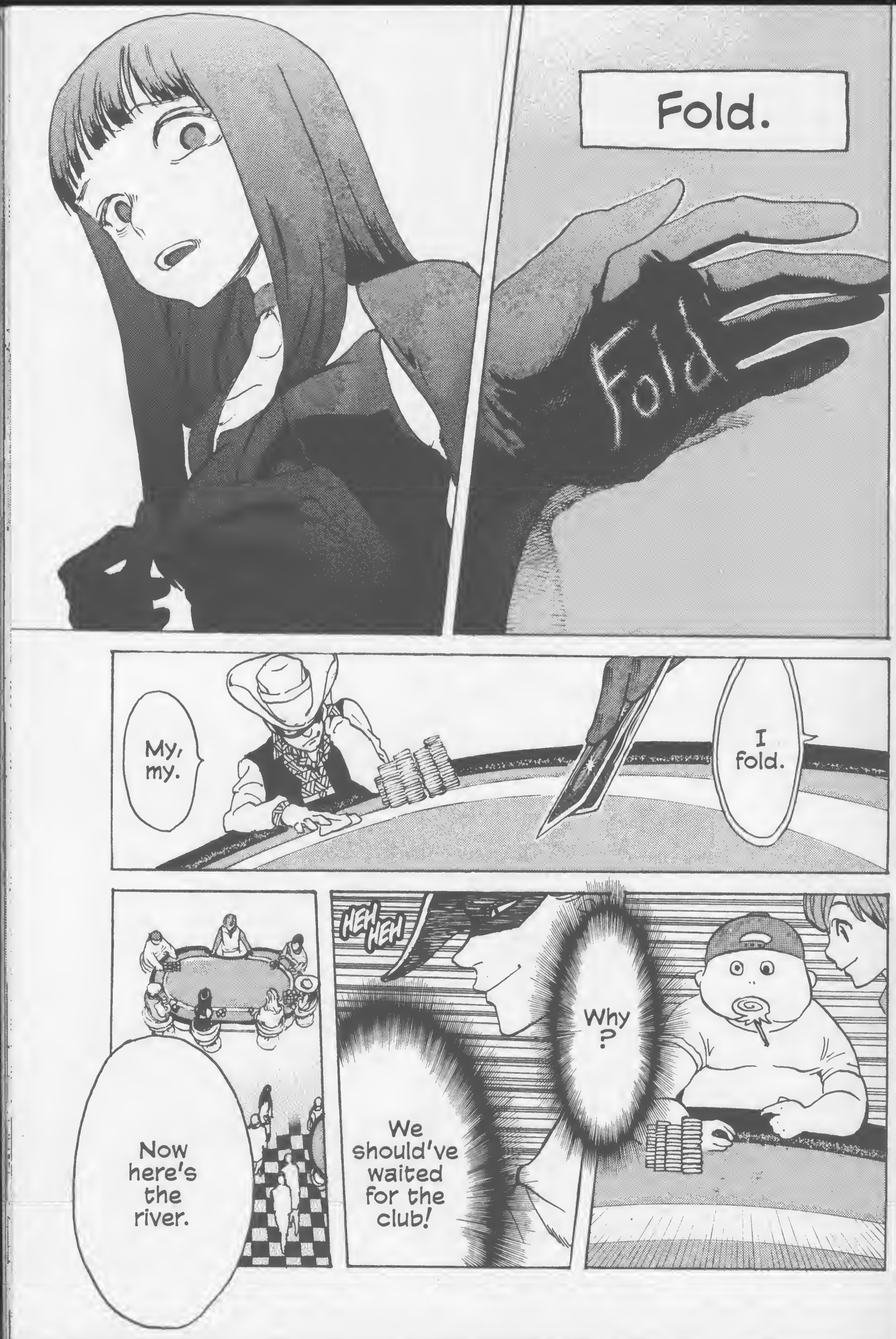

TMP
Hmm.
I fold.
We should fold, too.
But we bet so much!
Fold
I fold.
HEH
I call.

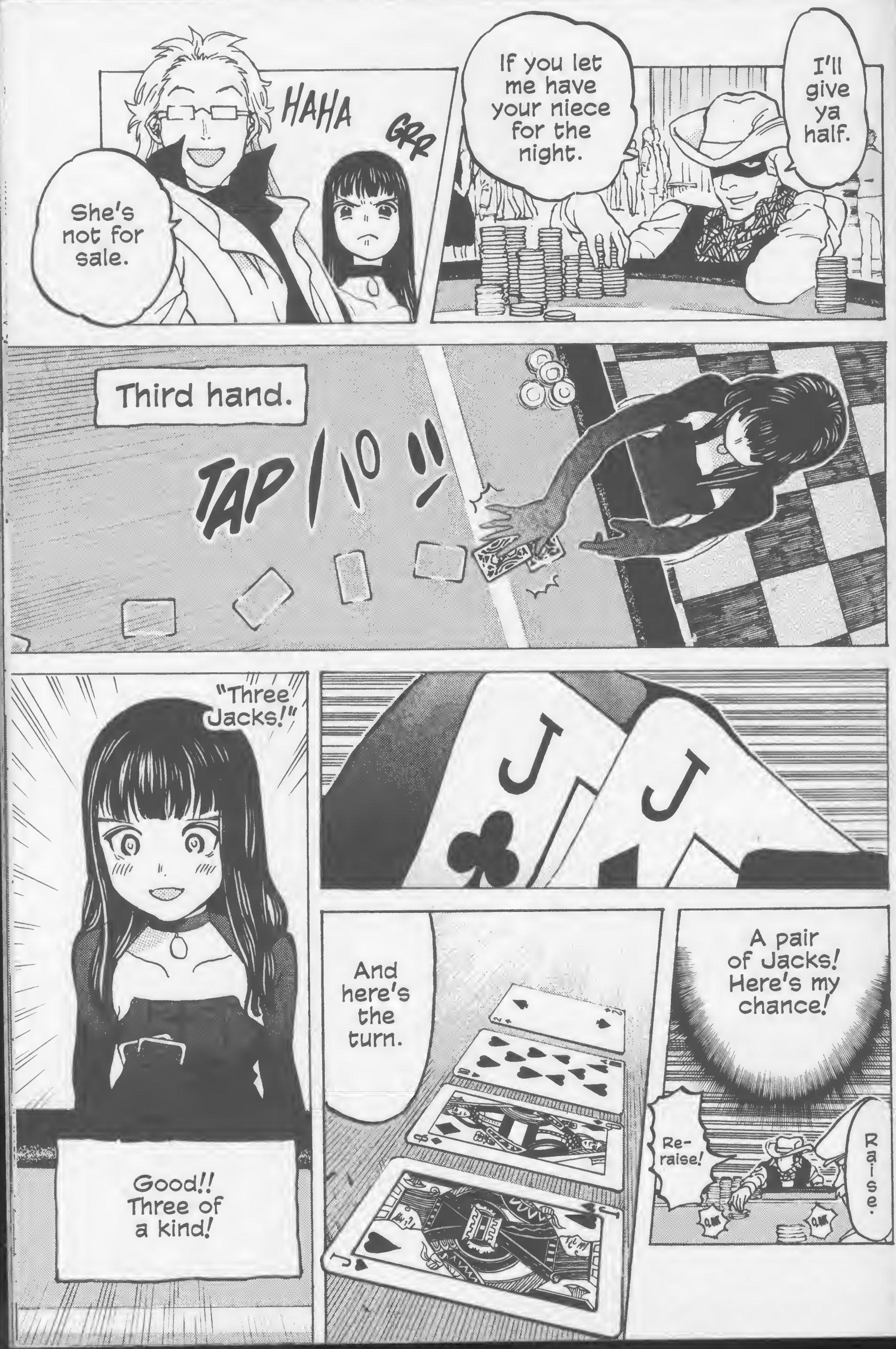

I raise!!
CLINK
SLIDE
GULP
Raise again.
I call.
Show your cards.
Pair of Kings and deuces.
Aha ha!
FLOP
Pair of Kings and eights! I win!

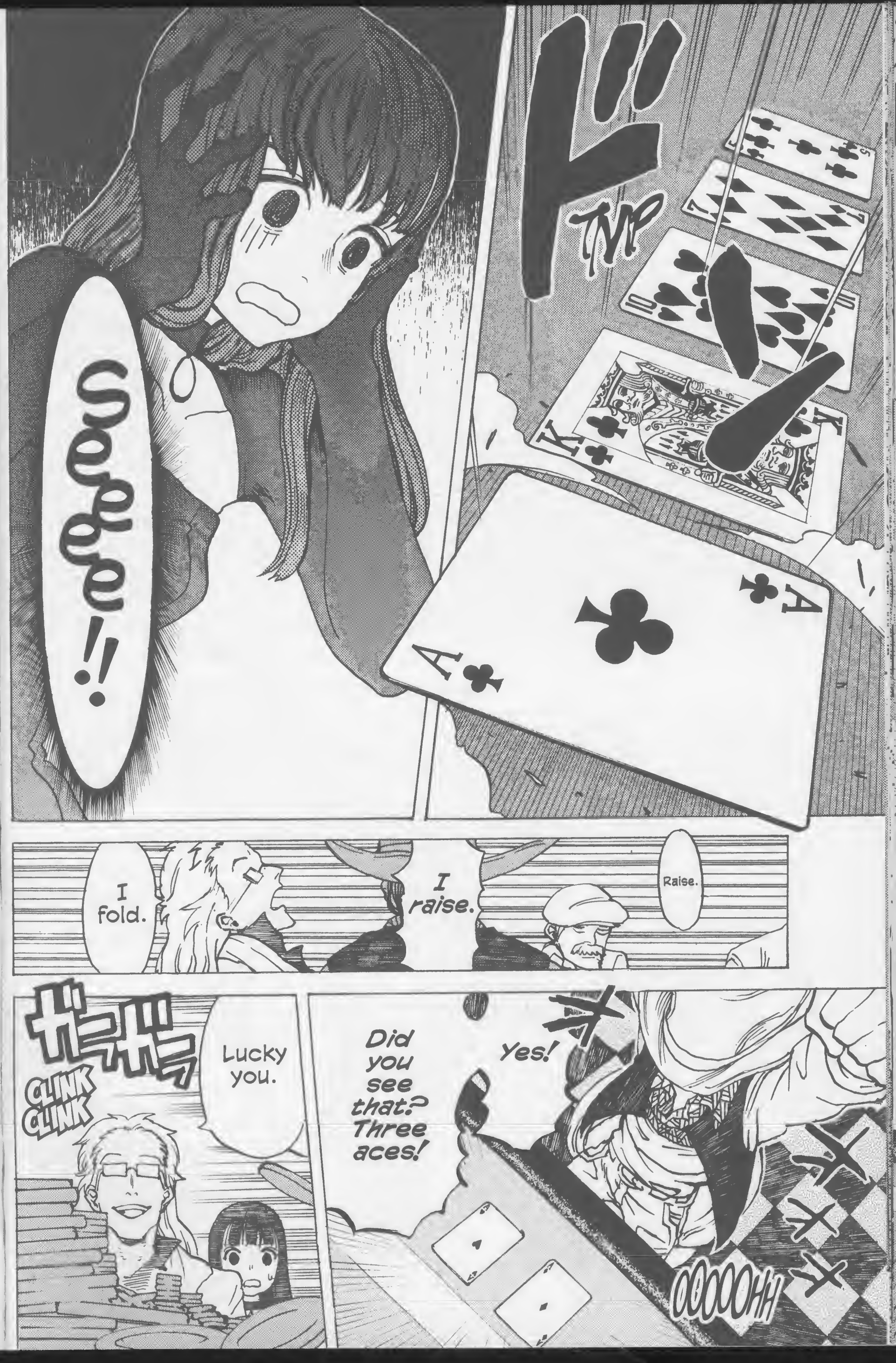

Hand it over!
Hurry it up!
CHING
ザ
FSSSH
FSSSH
FSSSH
FSSSH
ザ
CLINK CLINK
ザラ
ザラ
Heh heh.
Heh.
GRIN
FWOOSH
Second hand.

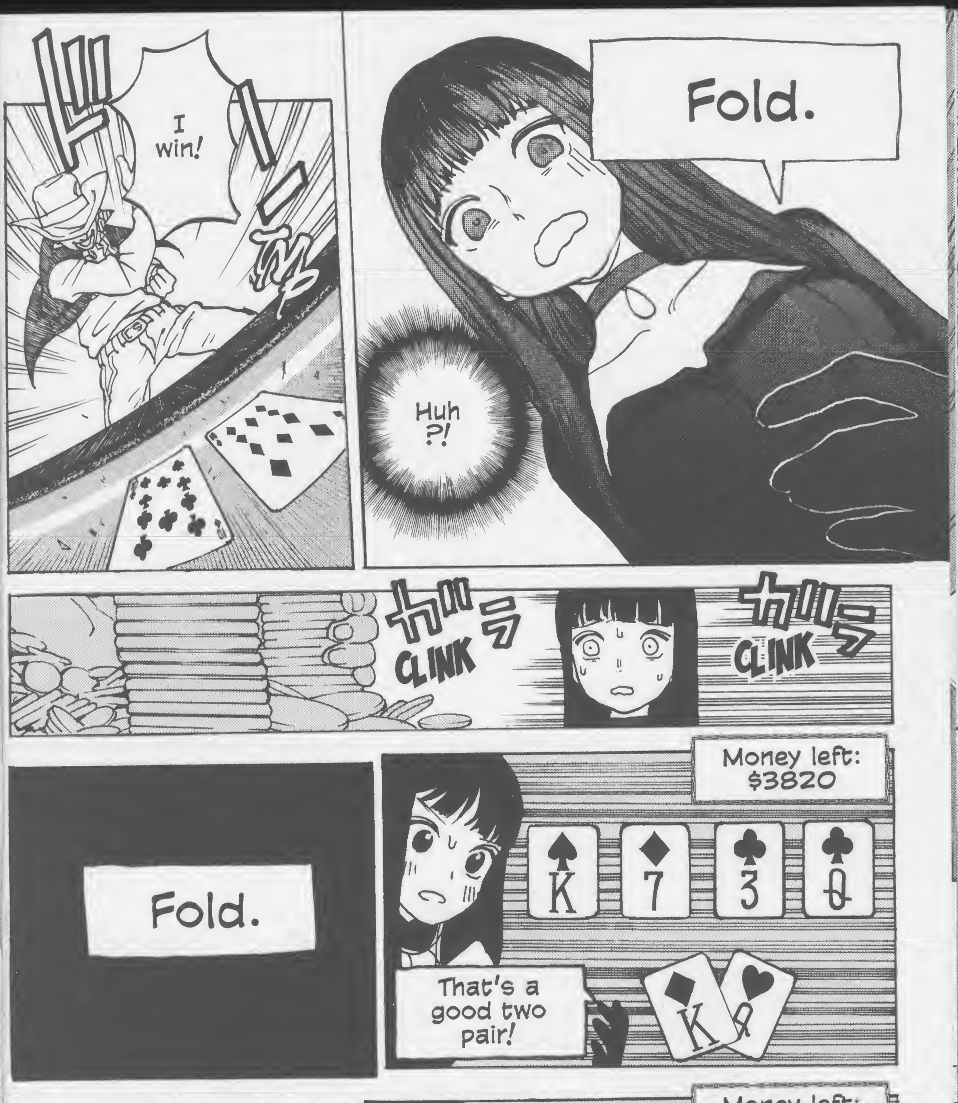

Money left: $5530
Q
8
ピタ
TAP
Raise!
Call!
CLINK
I fold.
ス
FLIP
Raise!
Call!

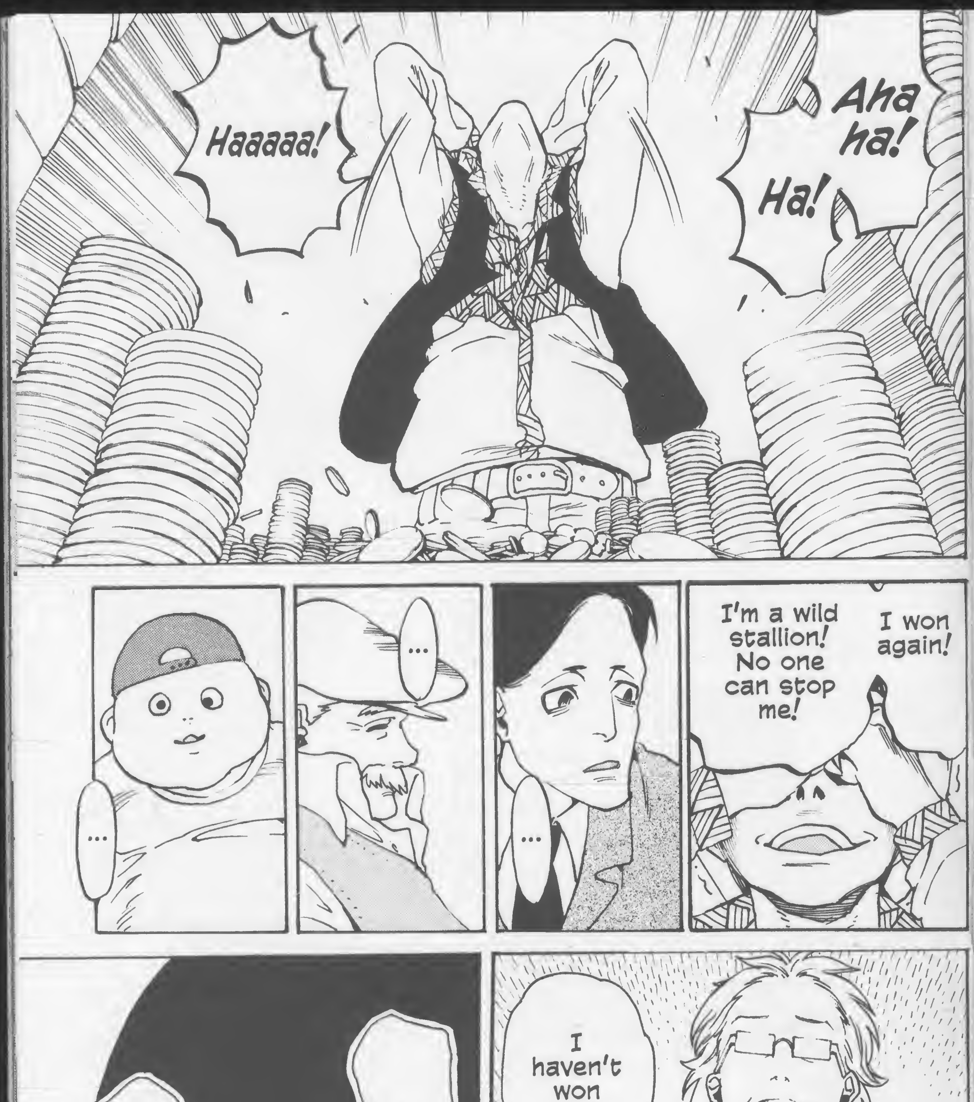

Raise!
Call!
Raise!
Call!
I fold.
NEH
Money left: $5290
K
10
7
5
Q
8
"I have four clubs, Œufcoque!"
TH-THUMP
One more and you'll have a flush! A good chance to win!
Here comes the turn.

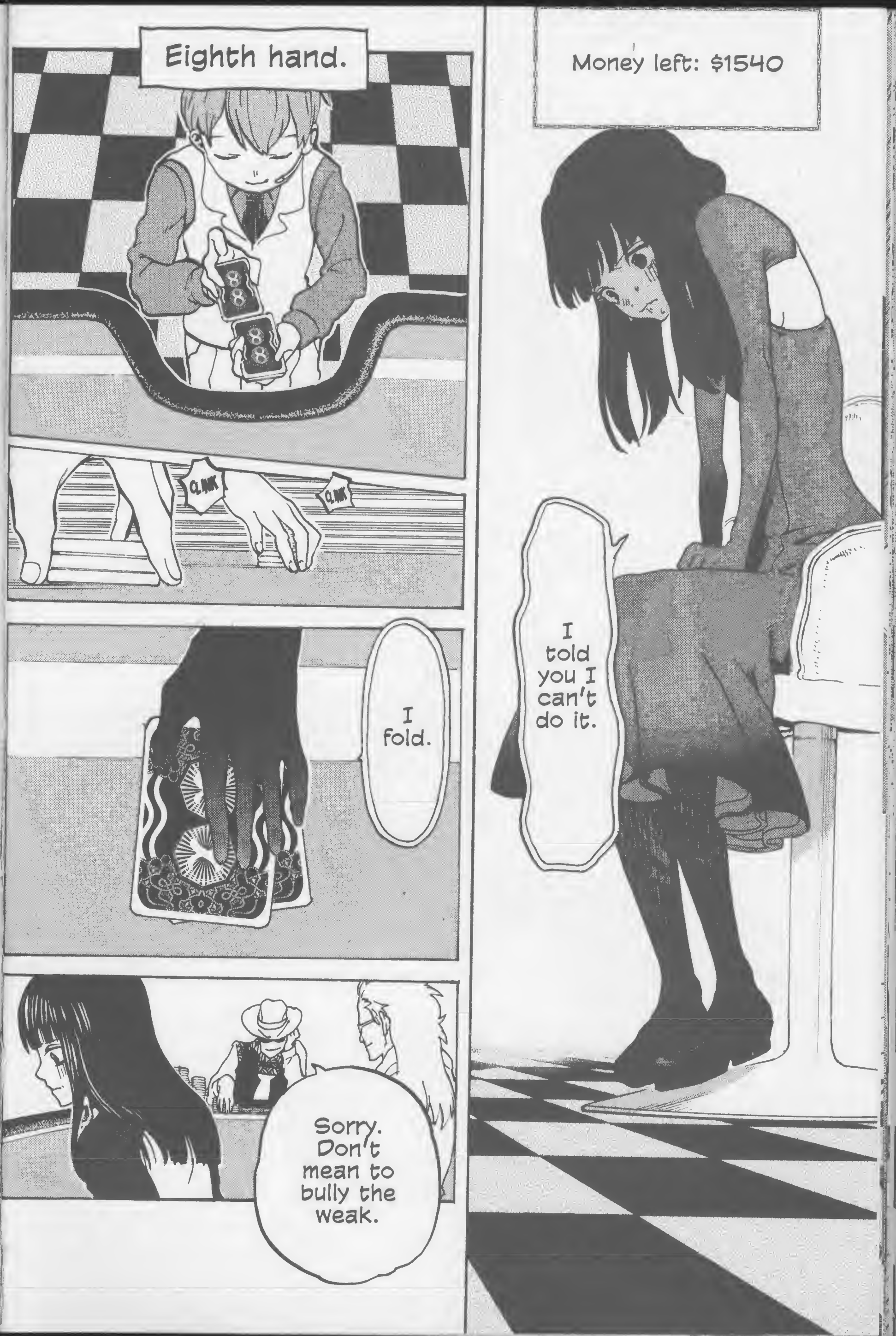

Fold.
Fold
I fold.
My, my.
Why?
HEH HEH
We should've waited for the club!
Now here's the river.

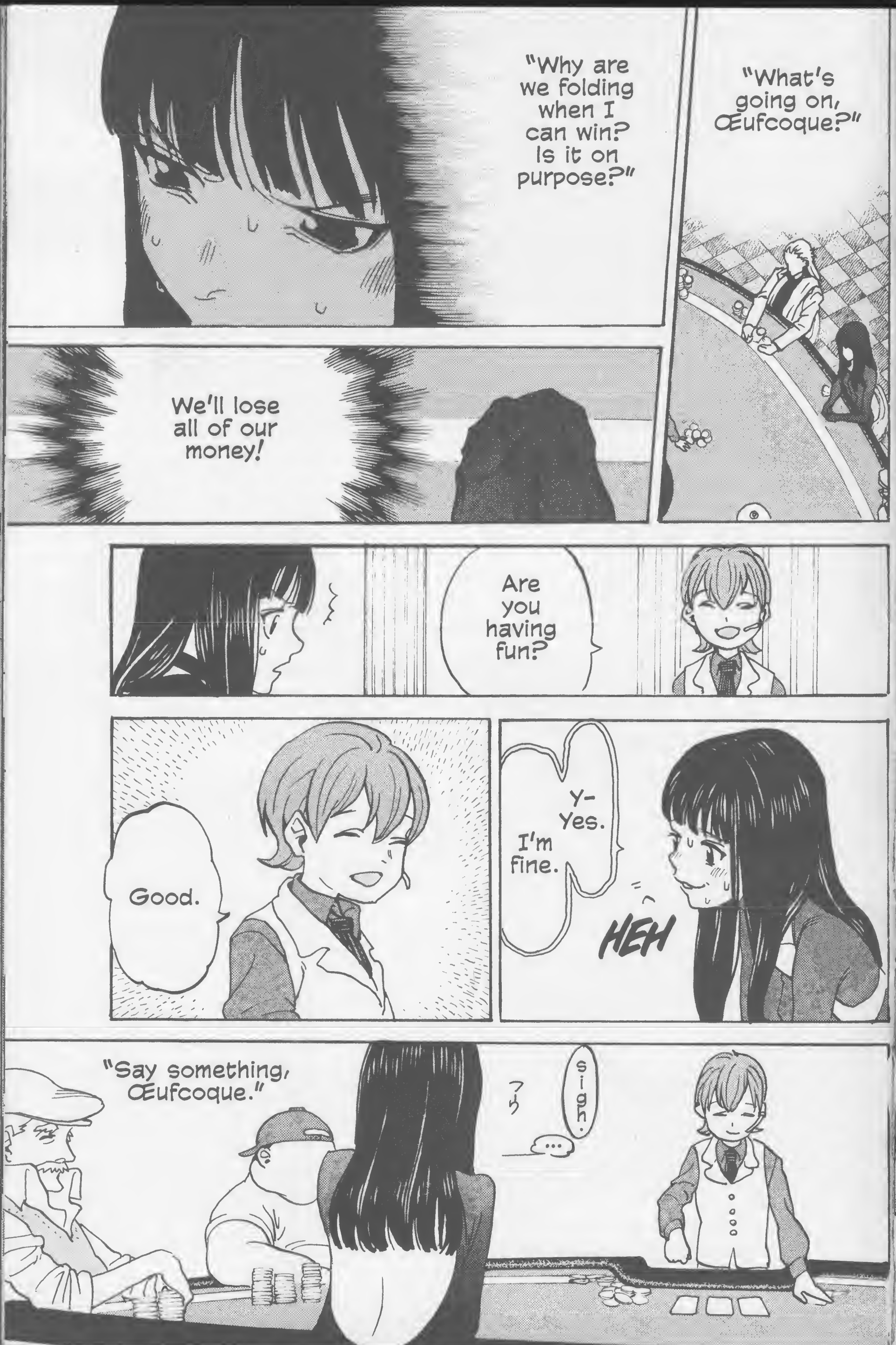

I'll give ya half.
If you let me have your niece for the night.
GRR
HAHA
She's not for sale.
Third hand.
パ!!
TAP
"Three Jacks!"
Good!! Three of a kind!
A pair of Jacks! Here's my chance!
Raise.
Re-raise!
CLINK
CLINK
And here's the turn.

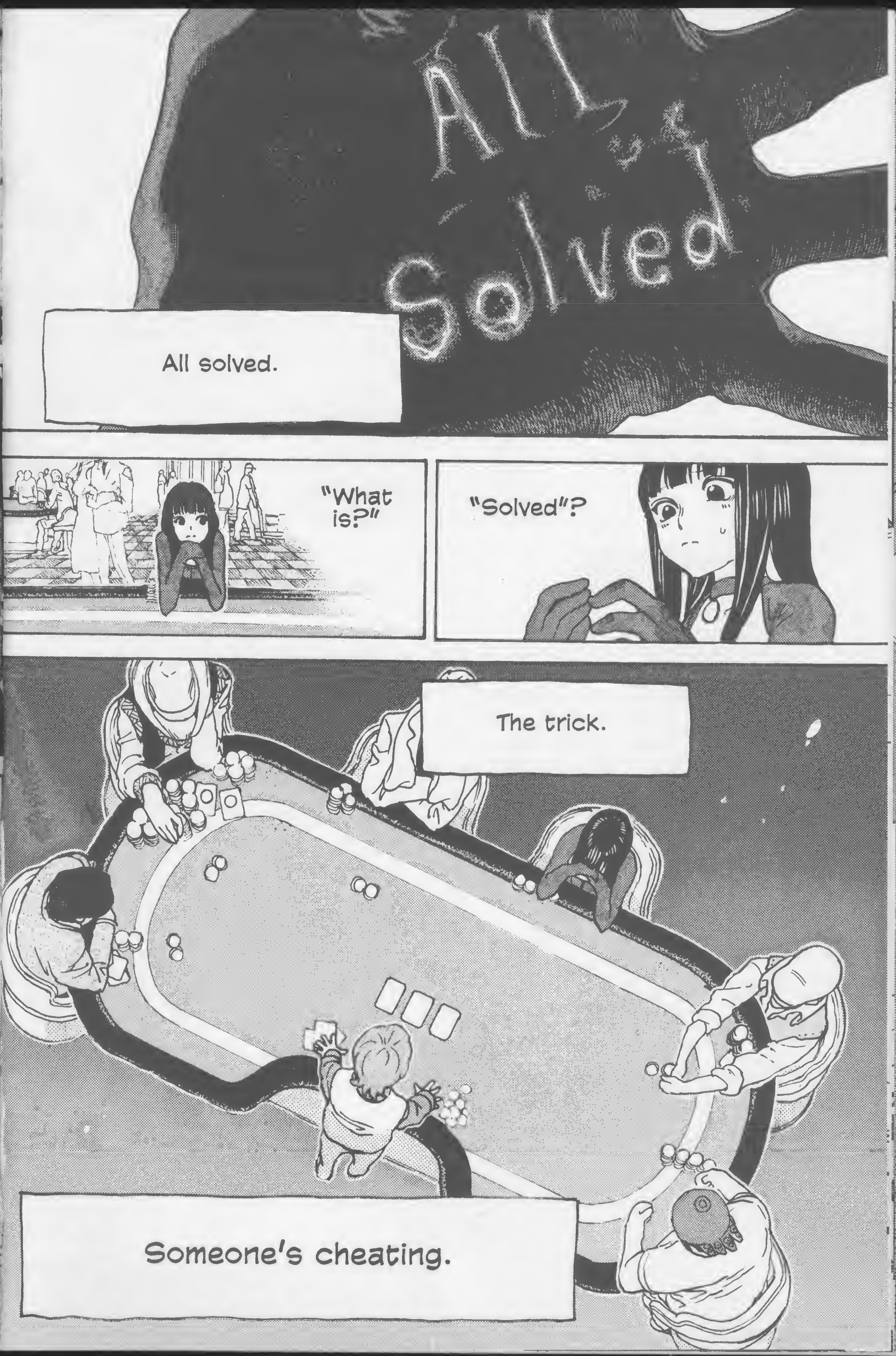

ド
TMP
Seeee!!
Raise.
I raise.
I fold.
Yes!
Did you see that? Three aces!
OOOOOHH
Lucky you.
CLINK CLINK

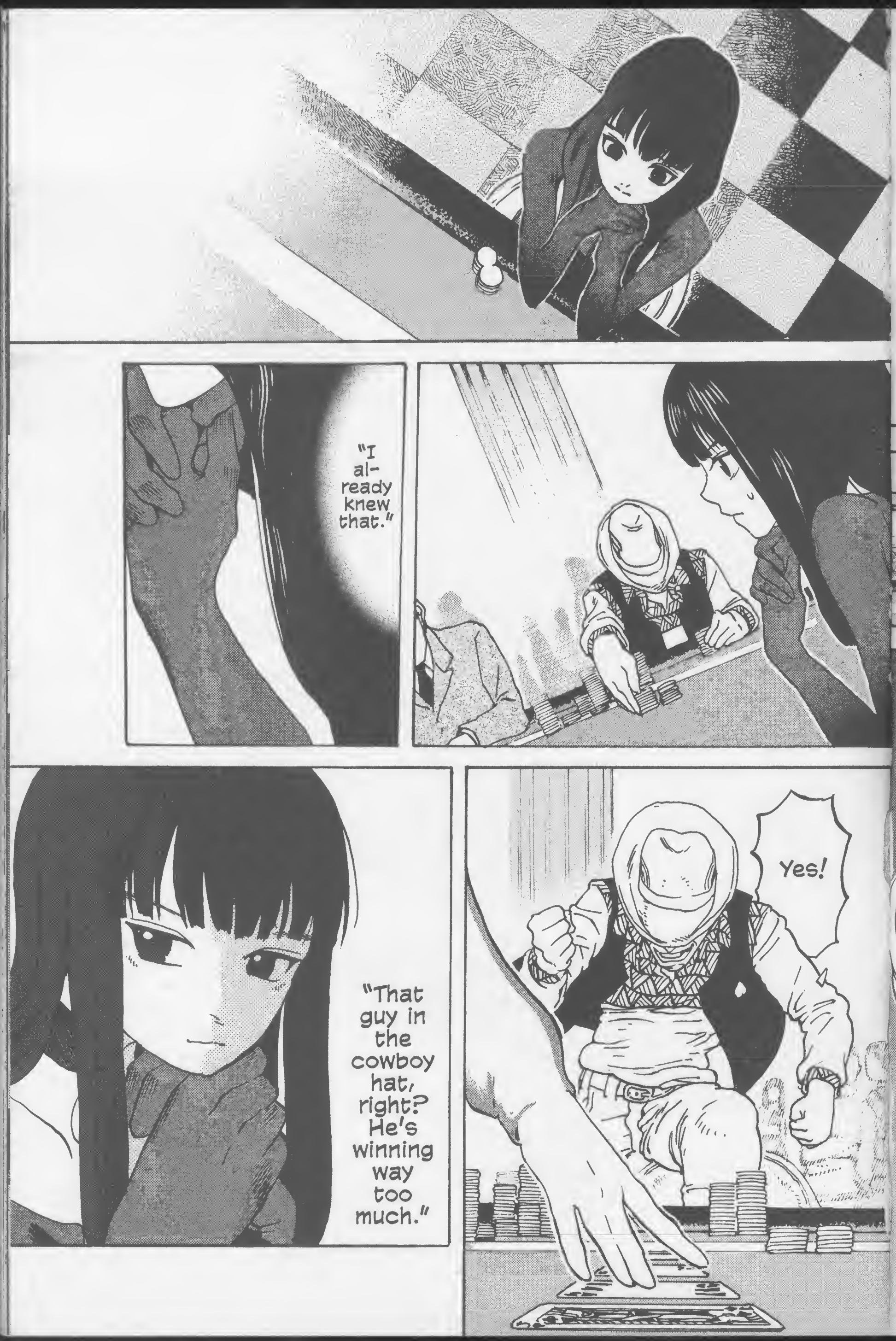

Fold.
Huh ?!
I win!
カラ
CLINK
カラ
CLINK
Money left: $3820
That's a good two pair!
Fold.
Money left: $2680
Great! A straight!
Fold.

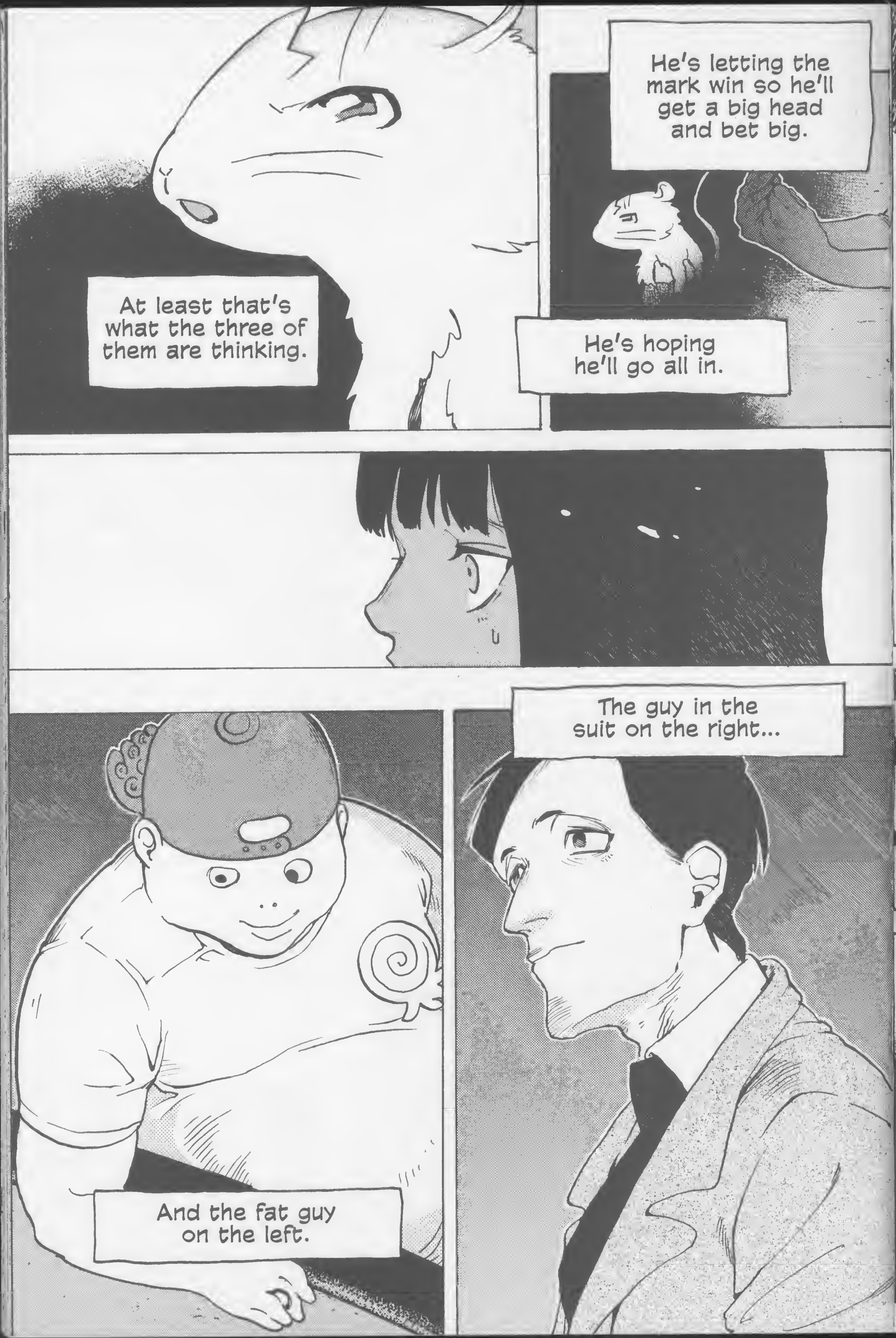

Aha ha!
Ha!
Haaaaa!
I won again!
I'm a wild stallion! No one can stop me!
...
...
...
I haven't won yet!
U-Uncle...
I told you so...

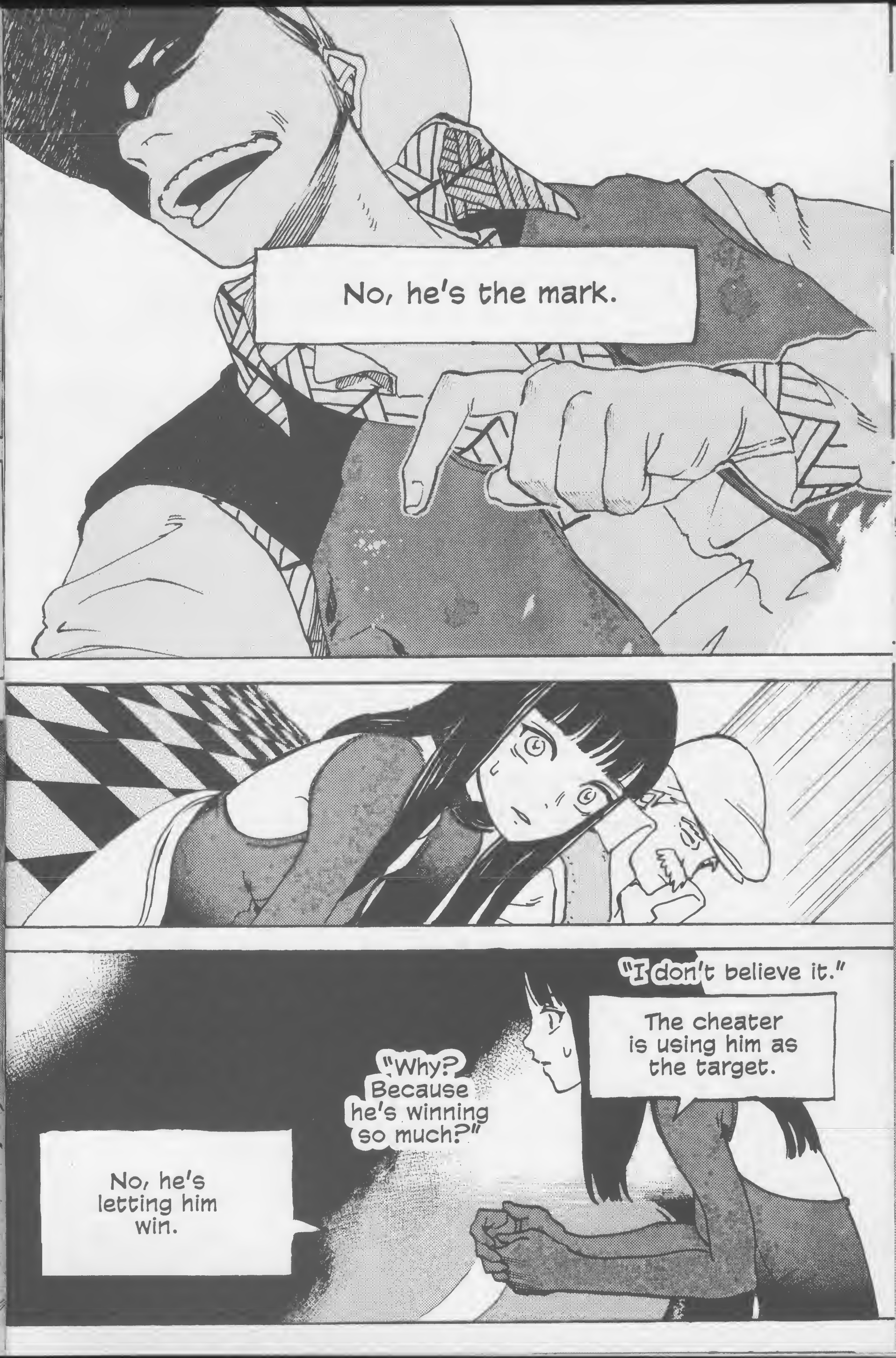

Money left: $1540
I told you I can't do it.
Eighth hand.
CLINK
CLINK
I fold.
Sorry. Don't mean to bully the weak.

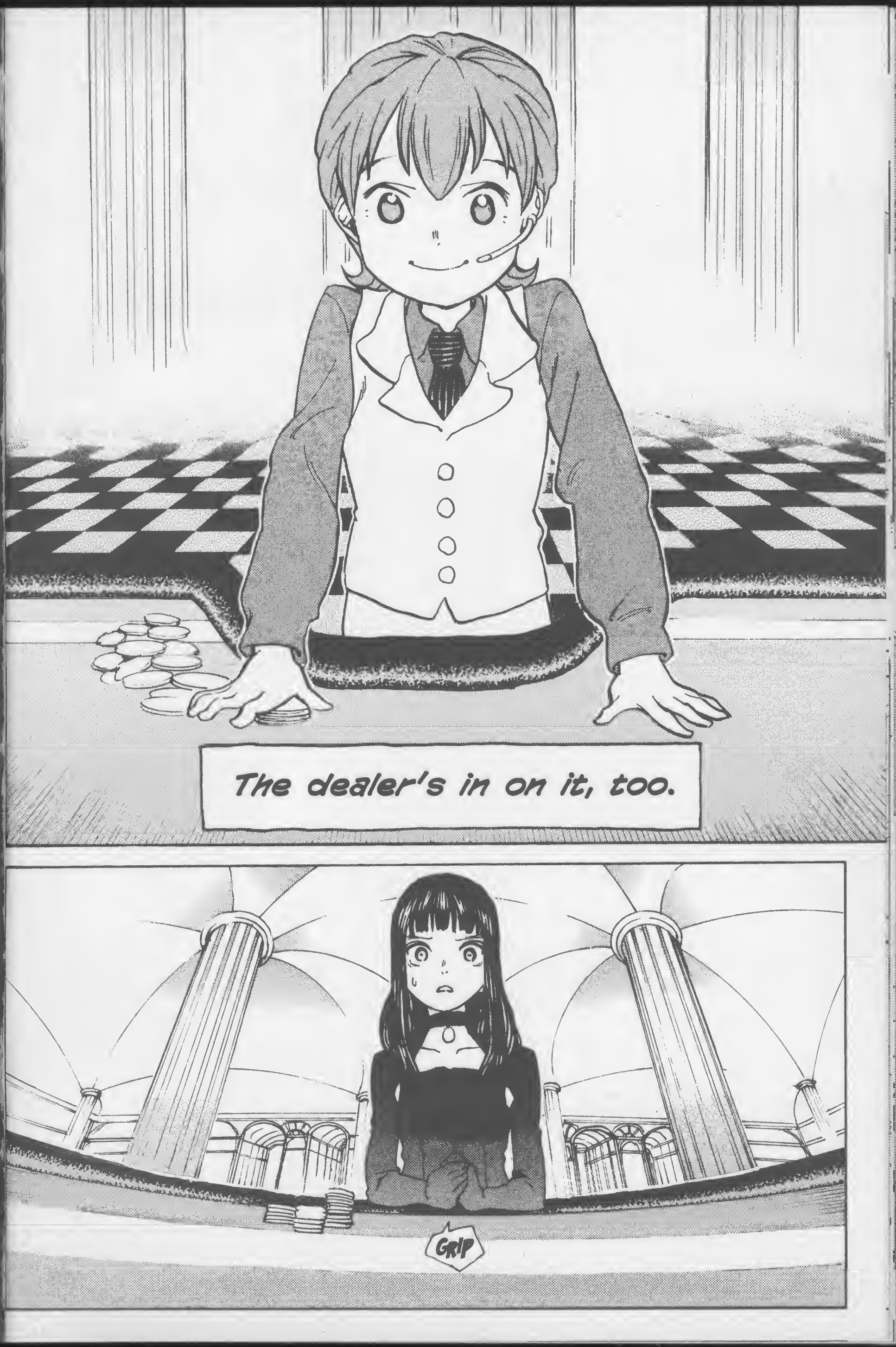

"What's going on, Œufcoque?"
"Why are we folding when I can win? Is it on purpose?"
We'll lose all of our money!
Are you having fun?
Y- Yes. I'm fine.
HEH
Good.
sigh.
...
"Say something, Œufcoque."


All Solved
All solved.
"Solved"?
"What is?"
The trick.
Someone's cheating.


"I already knew that."
Yes!
"That guy in the cowboy hat, right? He's winning way too much."

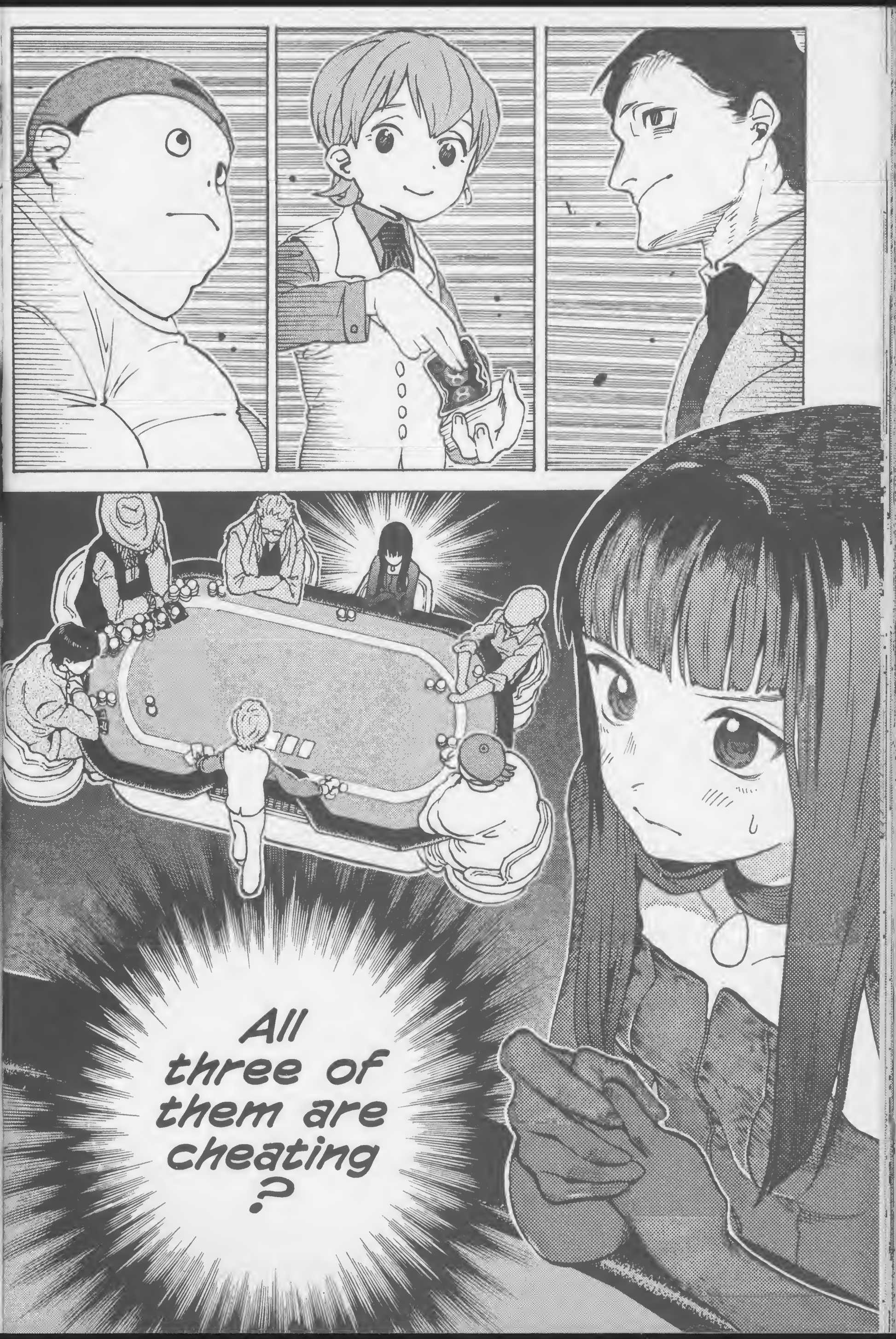

He's letting the mark win so he'll get a big head and bet big.
He's hoping he'll go all in.
At least that's what the three of them are thinking.
The guy in the suit on the right...
And the fat guy on the left.

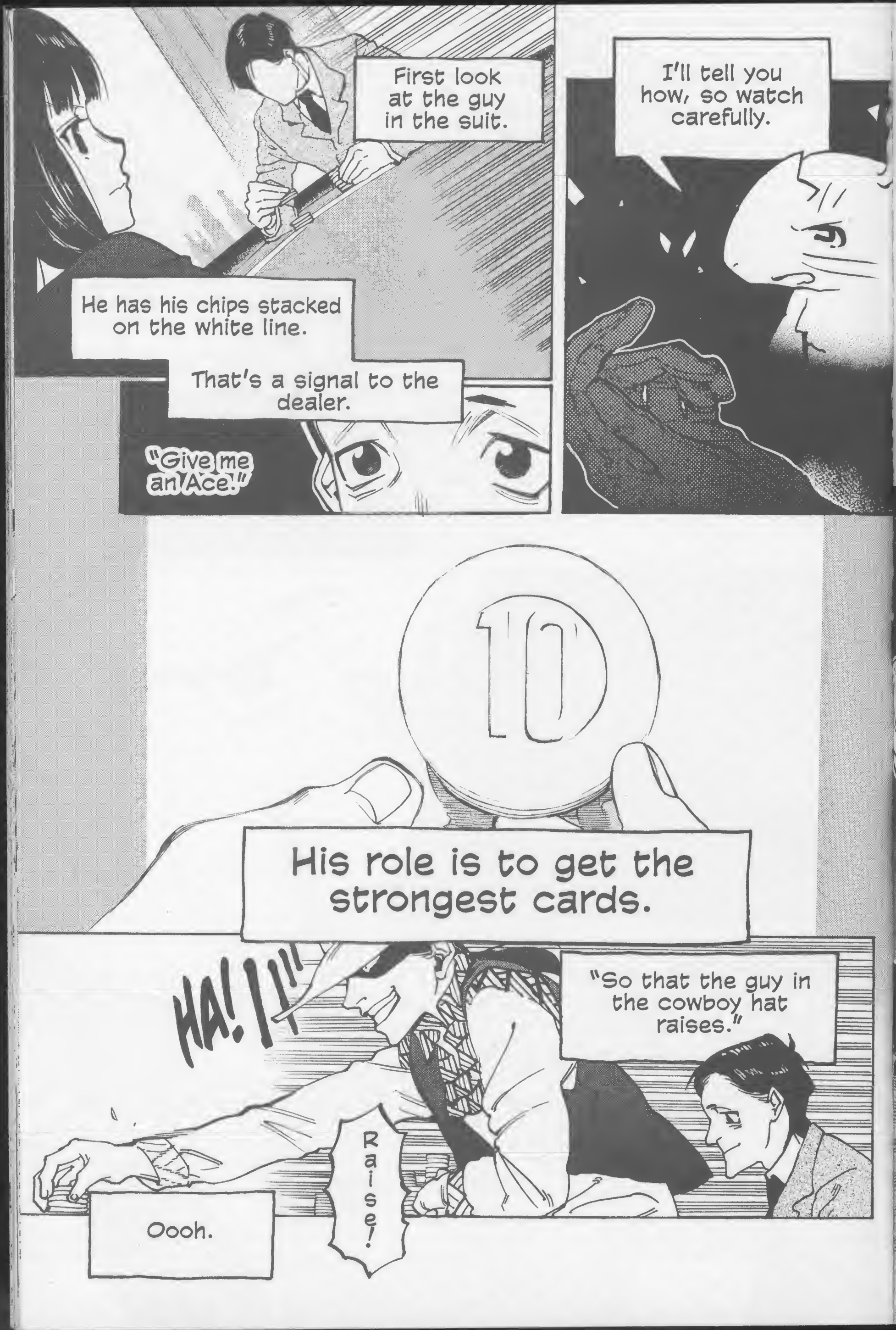

No, he's the mark.
"I don't believe it."
The cheater is using him as the target.
"Why? Because he's winning so much?"
No, he's letting him win.

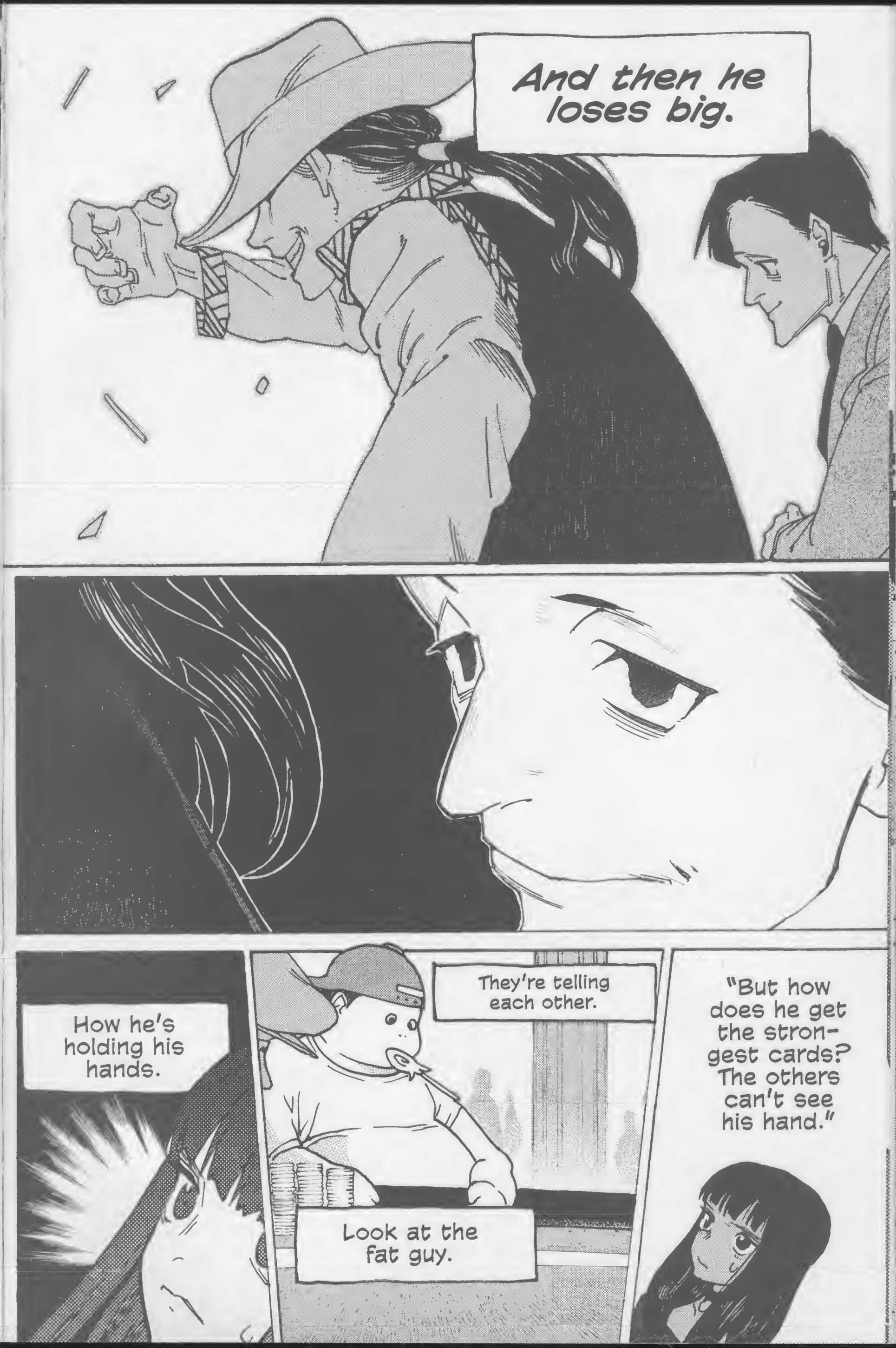

The dealer's in on it, too.
GRIP

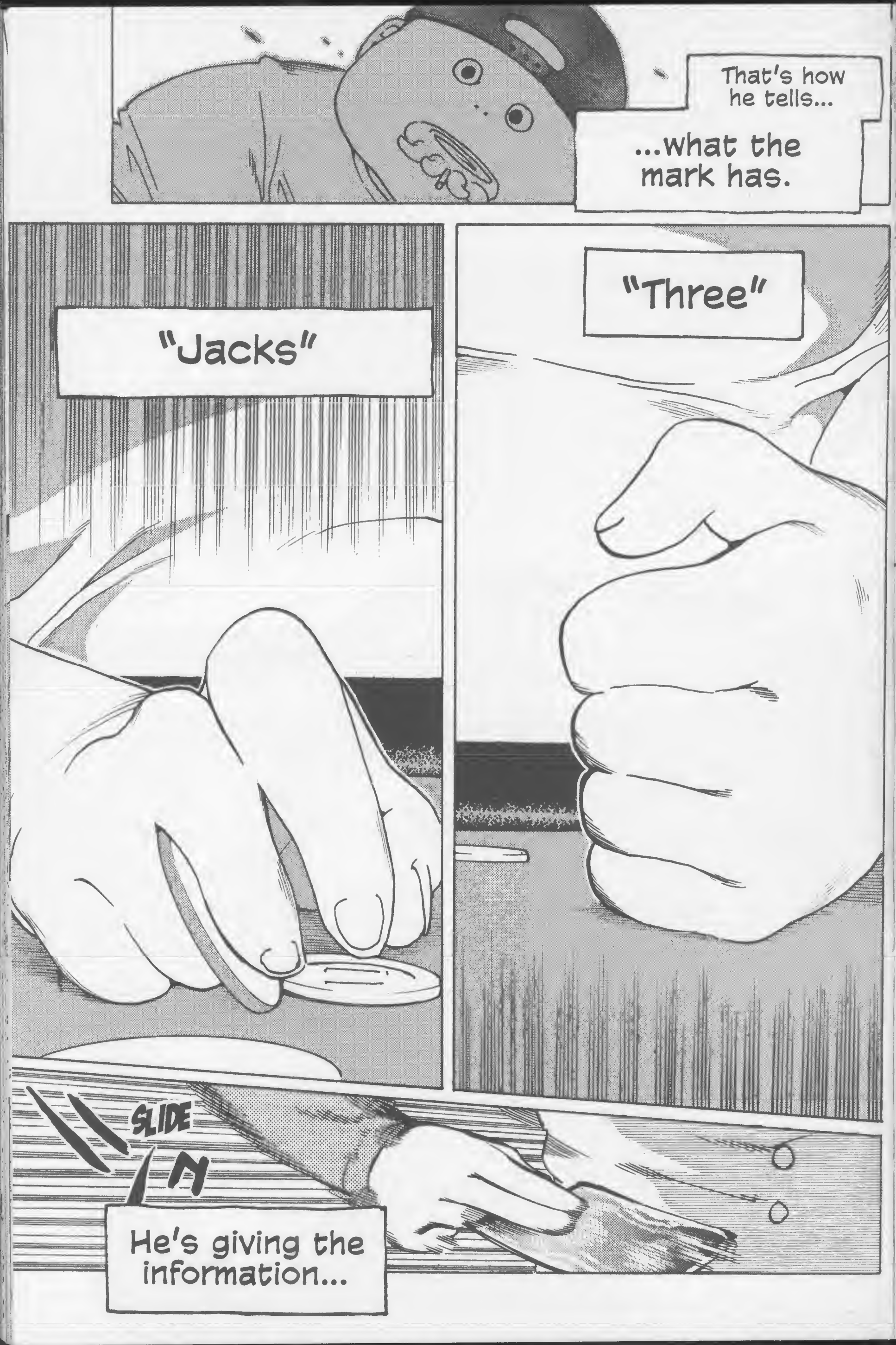
MARDOCK SCRAMBLE

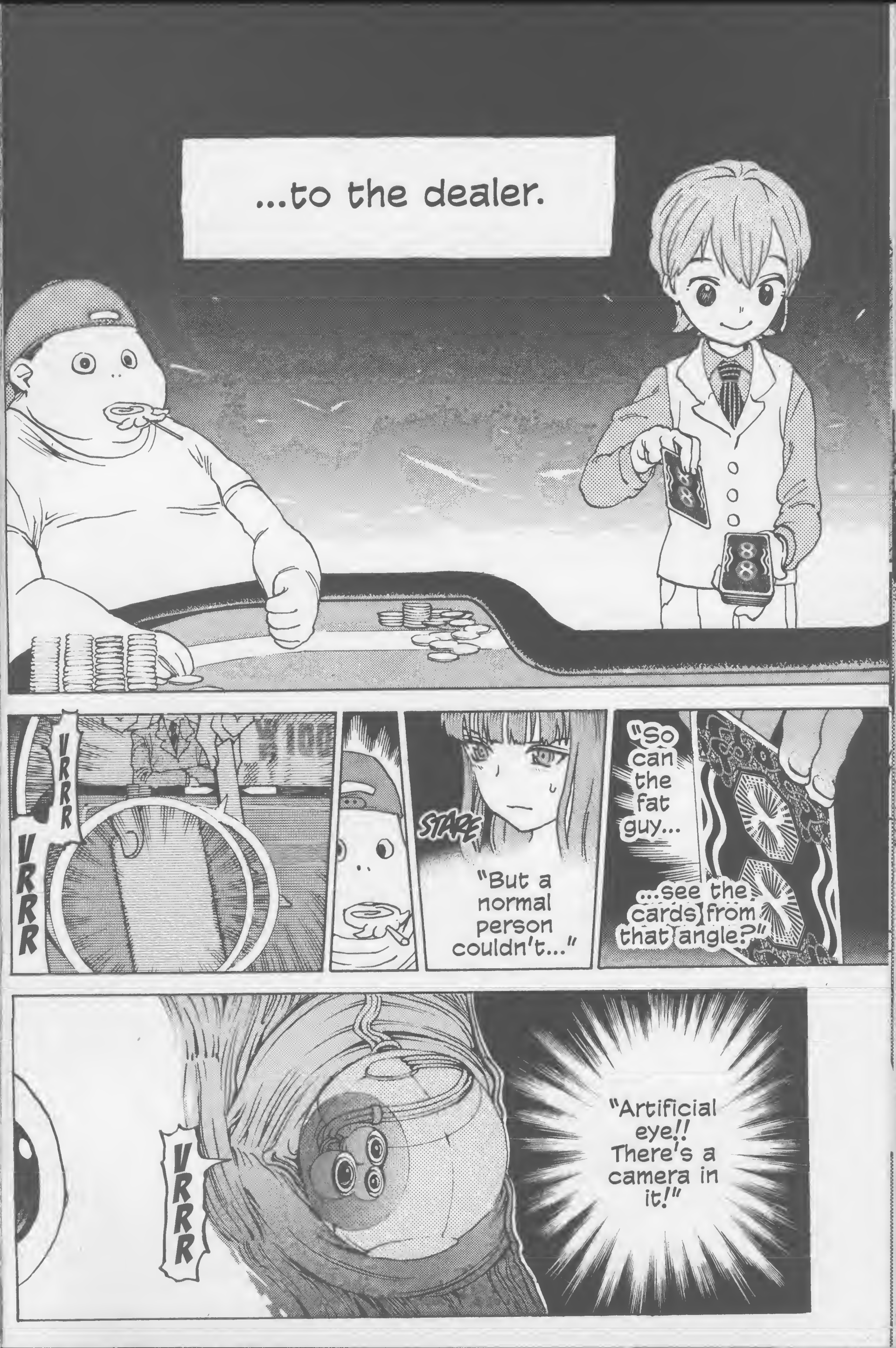
Chapter 17: Rotor (3)

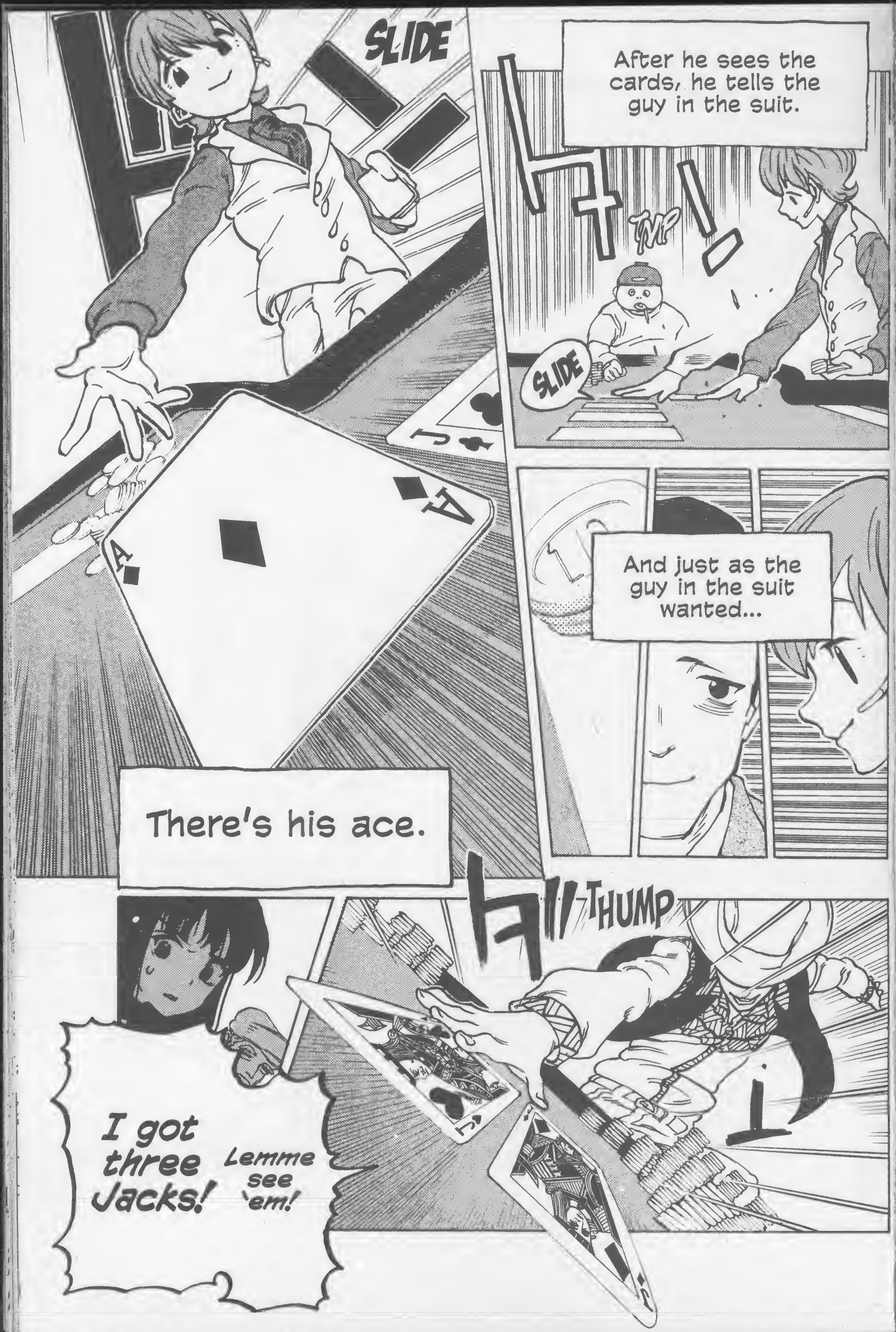

All three of them are cheating?

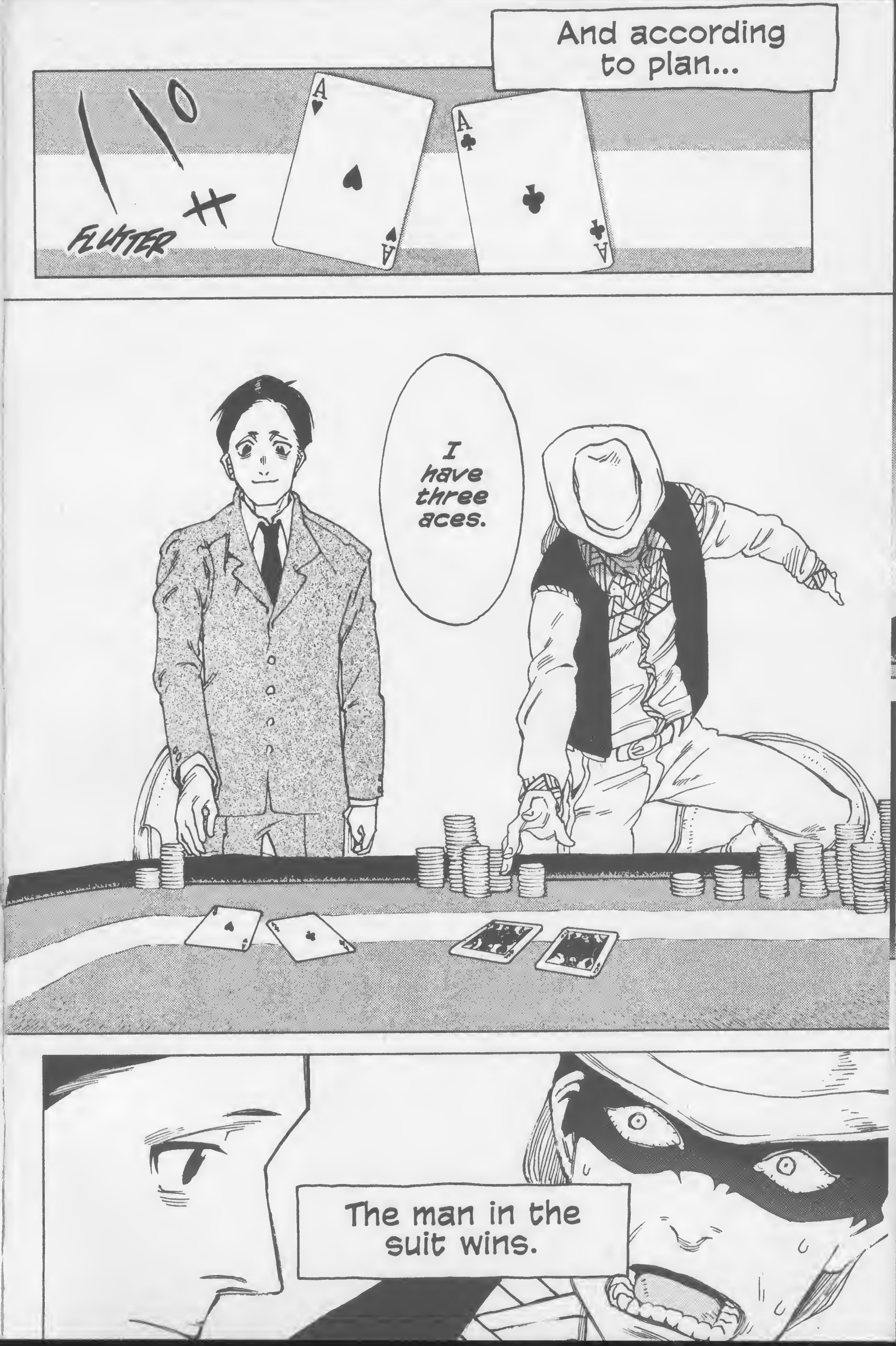

I'll tell you how, so watch carefully.
First look at the guy in the suit.
He has his chips stacked on the white line.
That's a signal to the dealer.
"Give me an Ace."
10
His role is to get the strongest cards.
"So that the guy in the cowboy hat raises."
Raise!
HA!!!
Oooh.

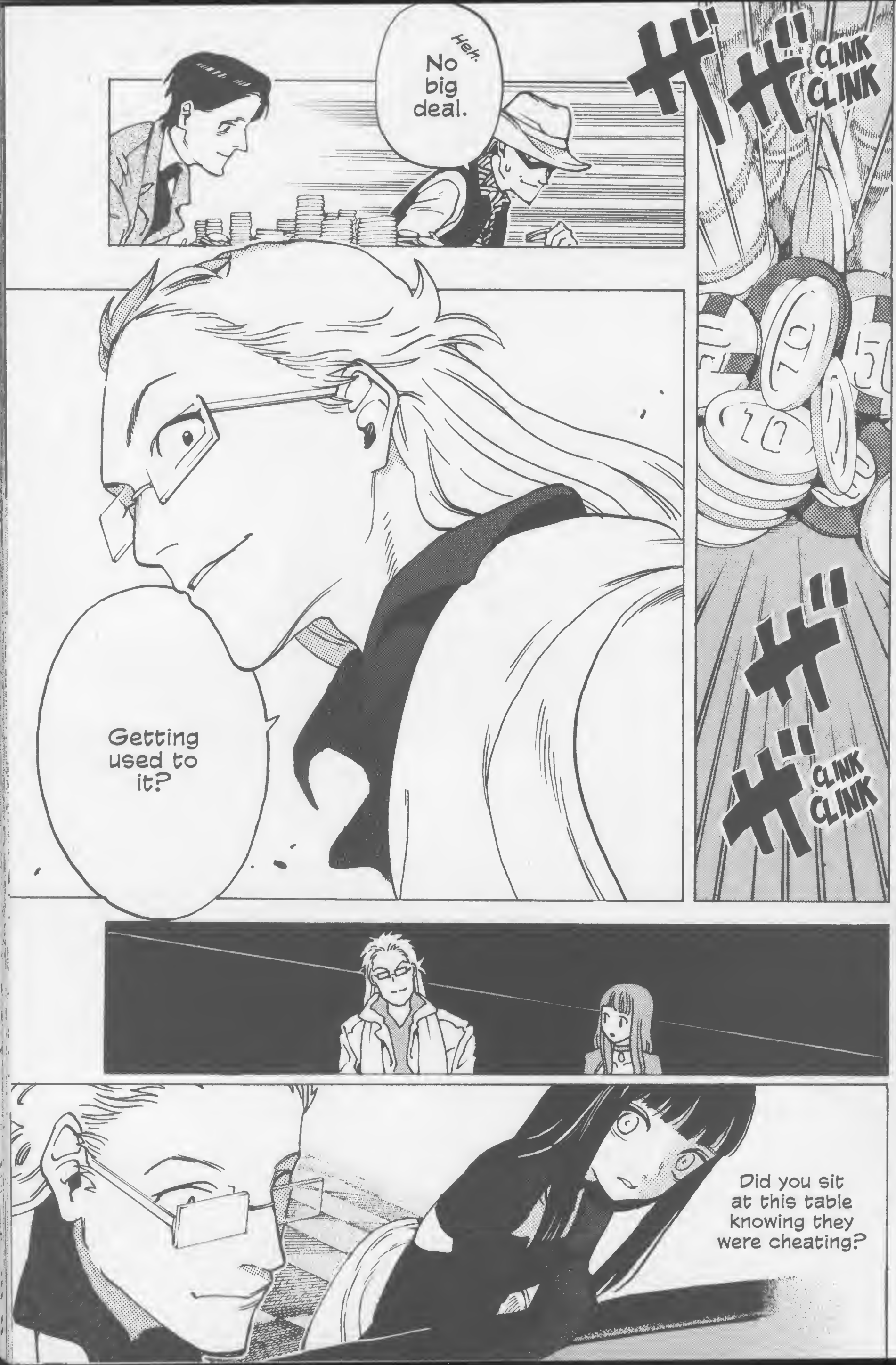

And then he loses big.
"But how does he get the strongest cards? The others can't see his hand."
Look at the fat guy.
They're telling each other.
How he's holding his hands.

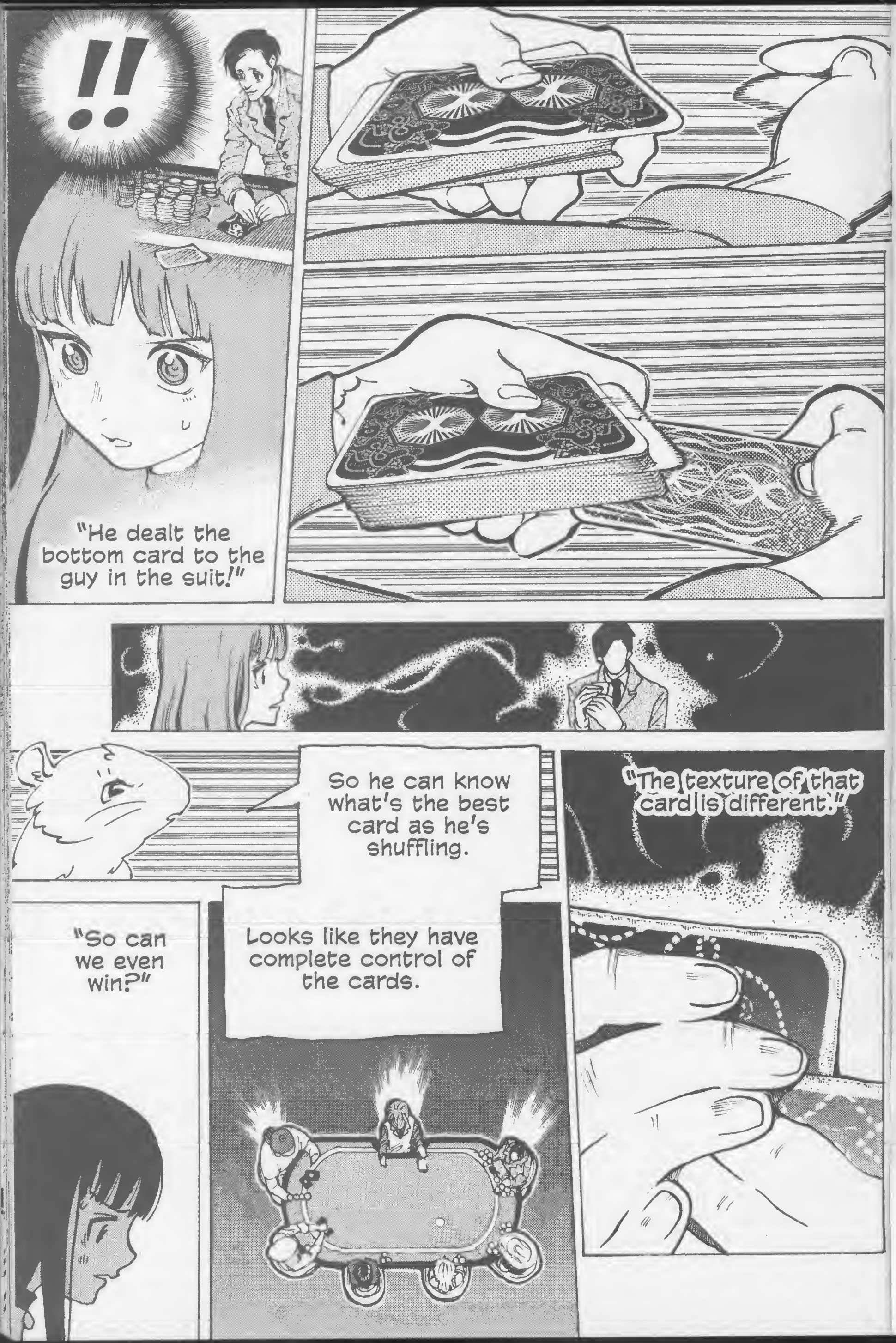

That's how he tells...
...what the mark has.
"Three"
"Jacks"
SLIDE
He's giving the information...

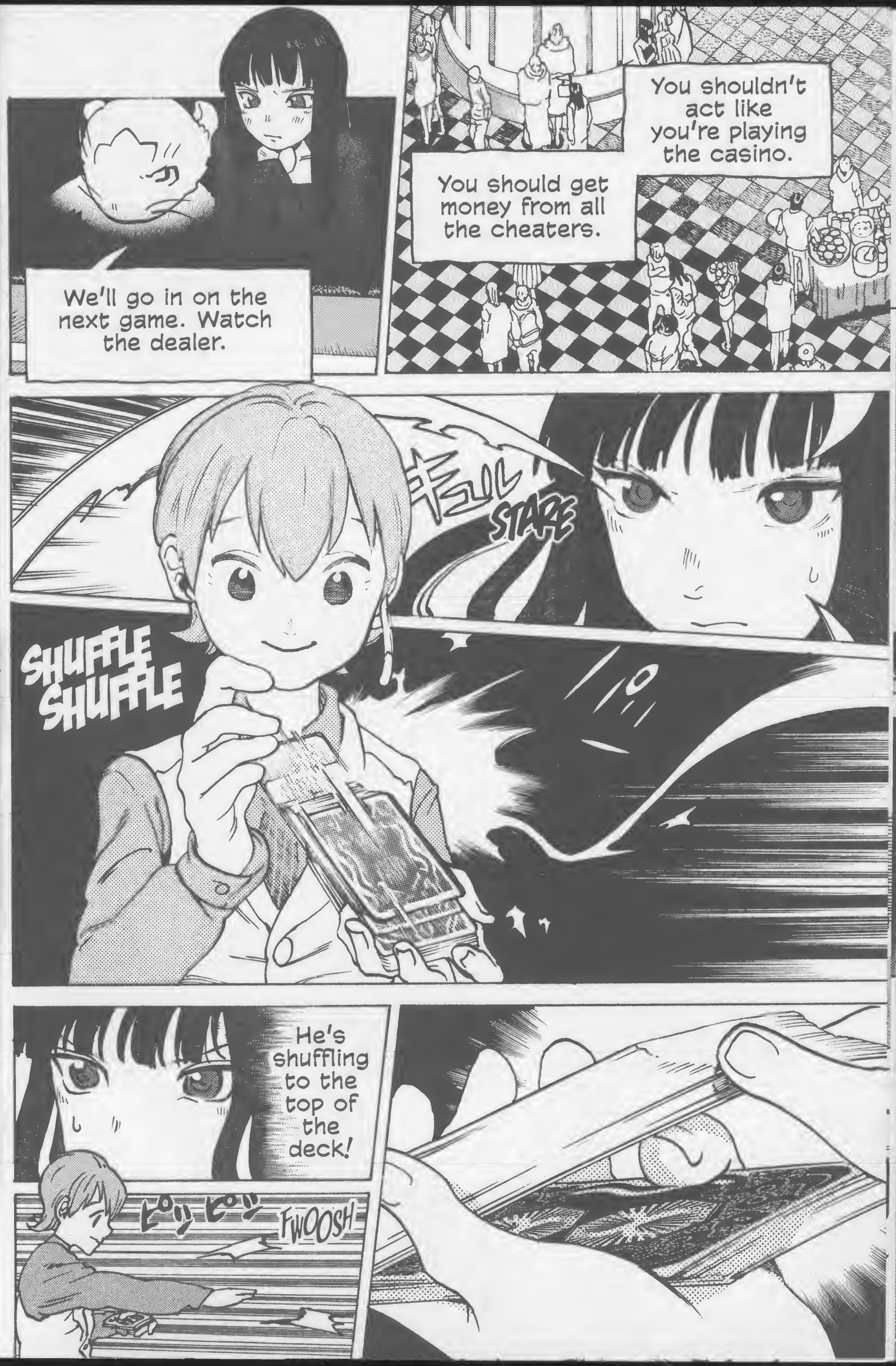

...to the dealer.
"So can the fat guy...
...see the cards from that angle?"
STARE
"But a normal person couldn't..."
VRRR
VRRR
VRRR
"Artificial eye!! There's a camera in it!"

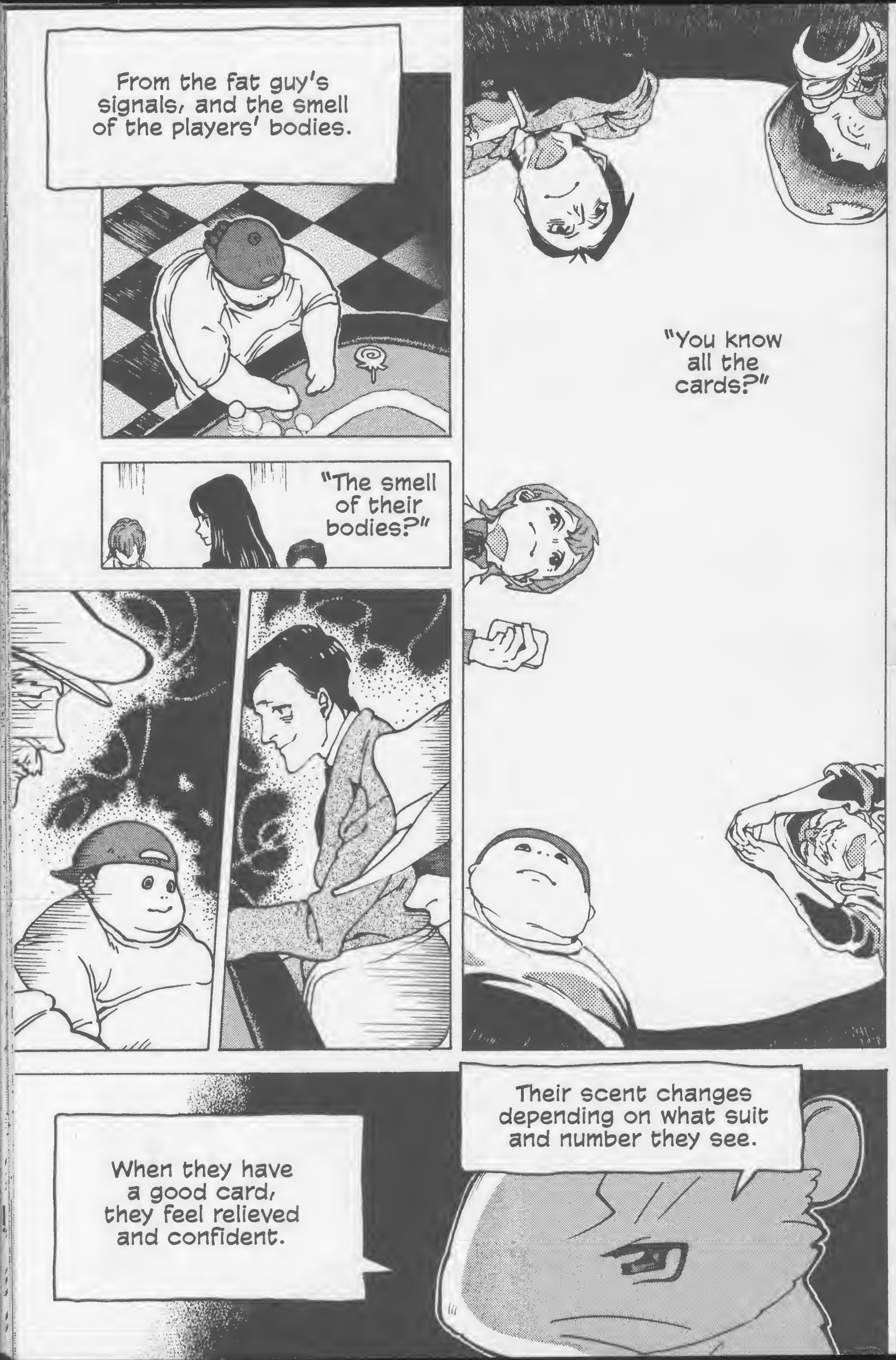

After he sees the cards, he tells the guy in the suit.
TAP
SLIDE
SLIDE
And just as the guy in the suit wanted...
There's his ace.
THUMP
I got three Jacks!
Lemme see 'em!

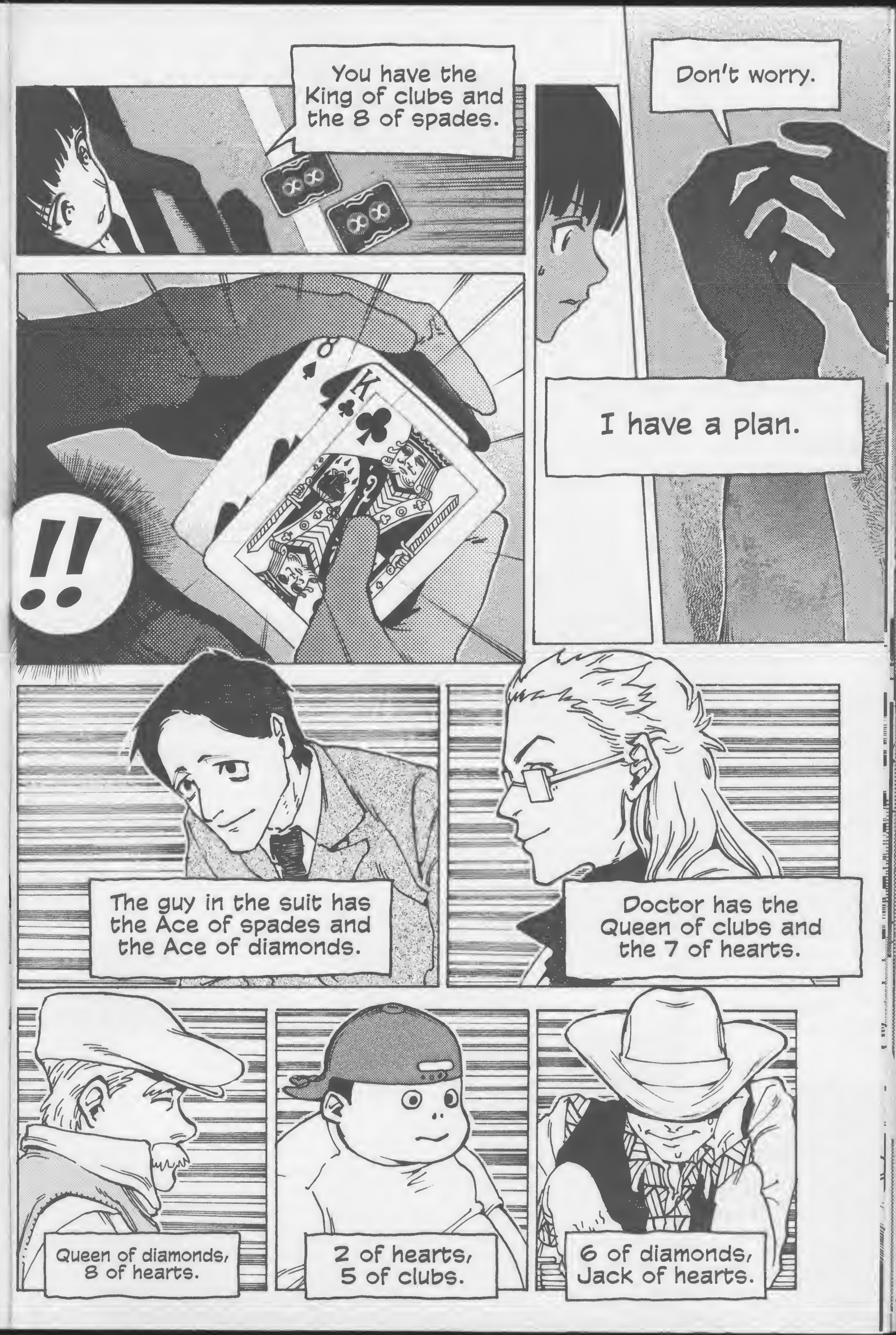

And according to plan...
FLUTTER
I have three aces.
The man in the suit wins.

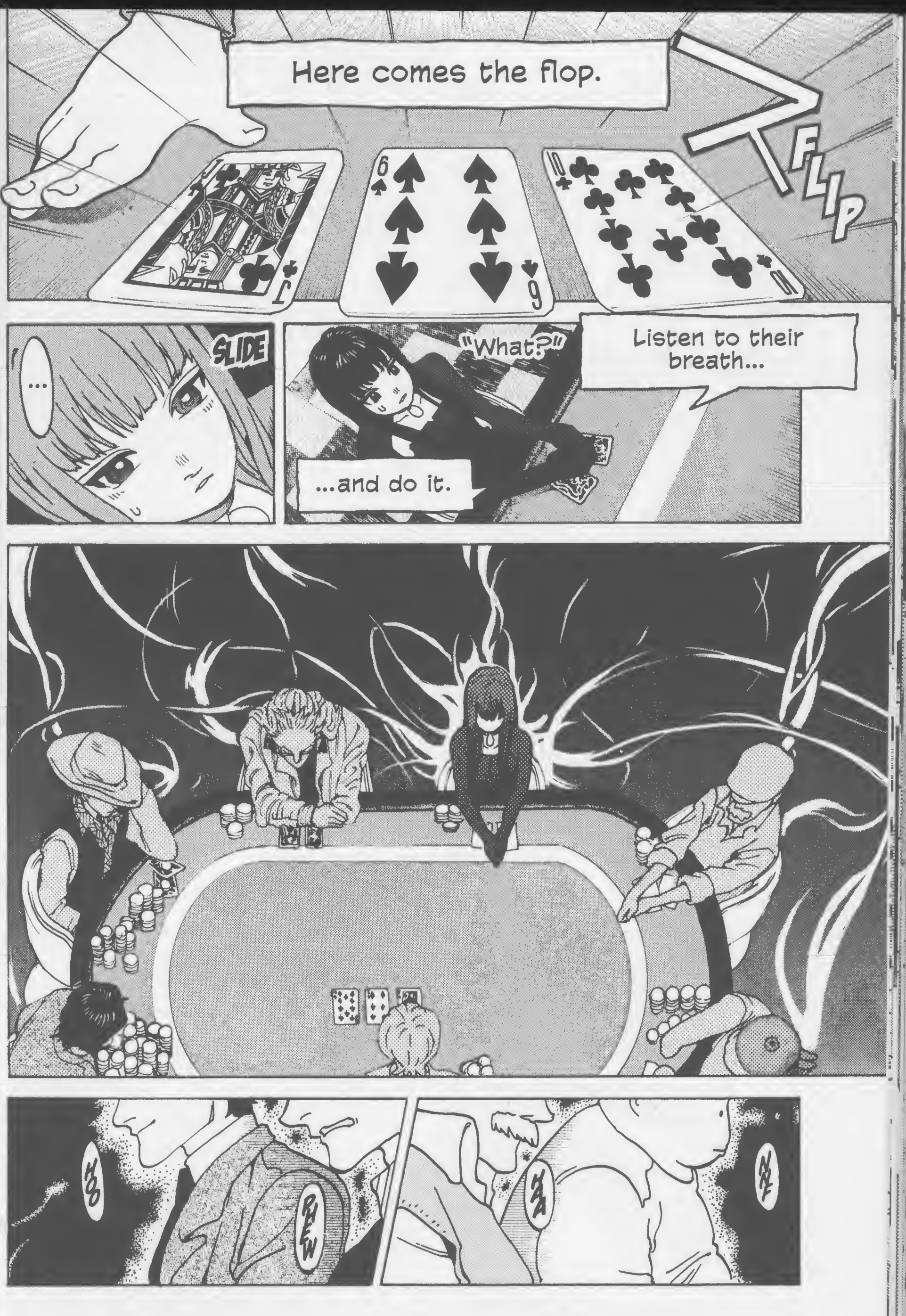

Heh. No big deal.
CLINK CLINK
Getting used to it?
CLINK CLINK
Did you sit at this table knowing they were cheating?

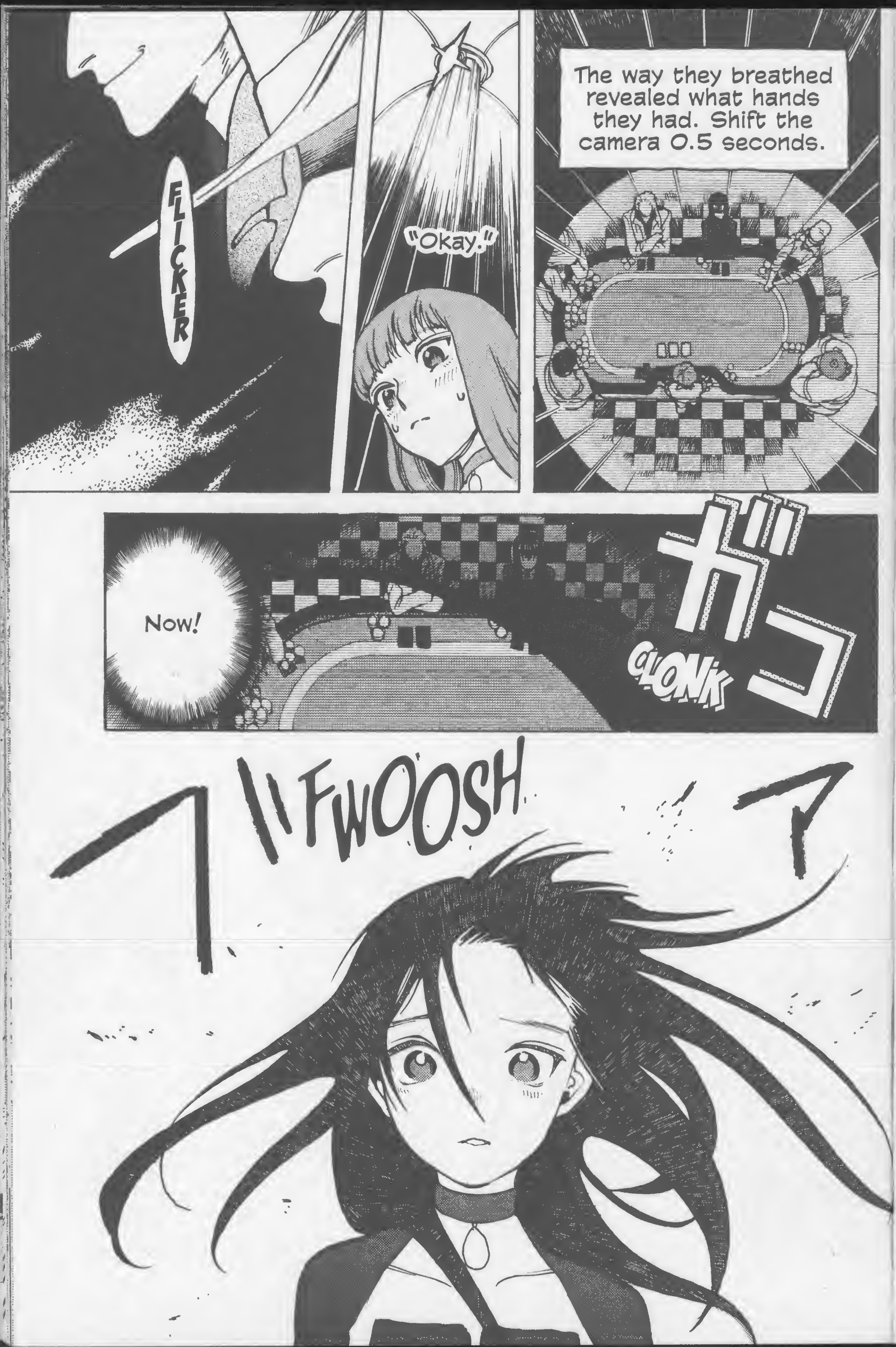

!!
"He dealt the bottom card to the guy in the suit!"
So he can know what's the best card as he's shuffling.
"The texture of that card is different."
"So can we even win?"
Looks like they have complete control of the cards.

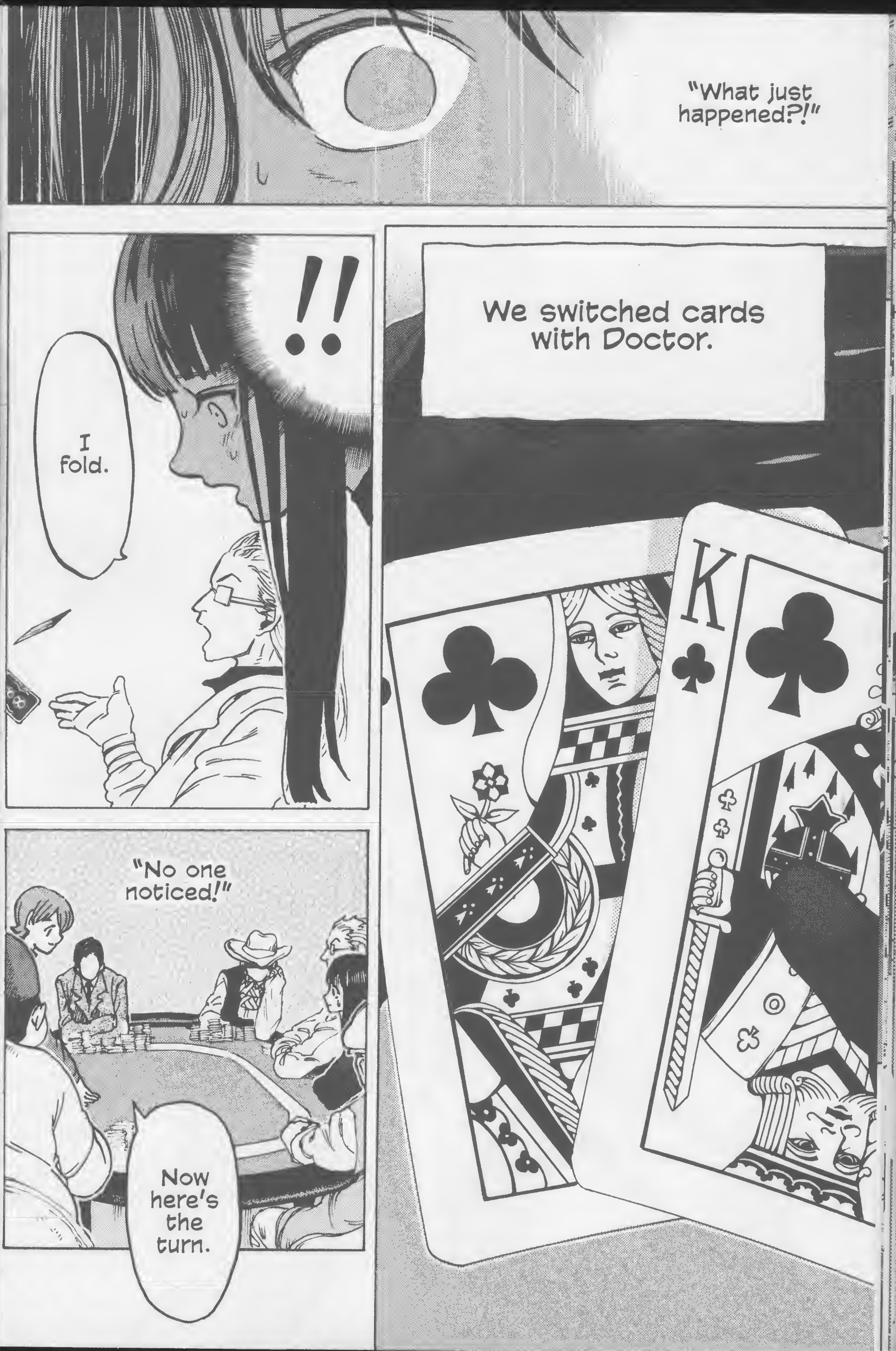

We'll go in on the next game. Watch the dealer.
You shouldn't act like you're playing the casino.
You should get money from all the cheaters.
キュル
STARE
SHUFFLE SHUFFLE
He's shuffling to the top of the deck!
ピッピッ
FWOOSH

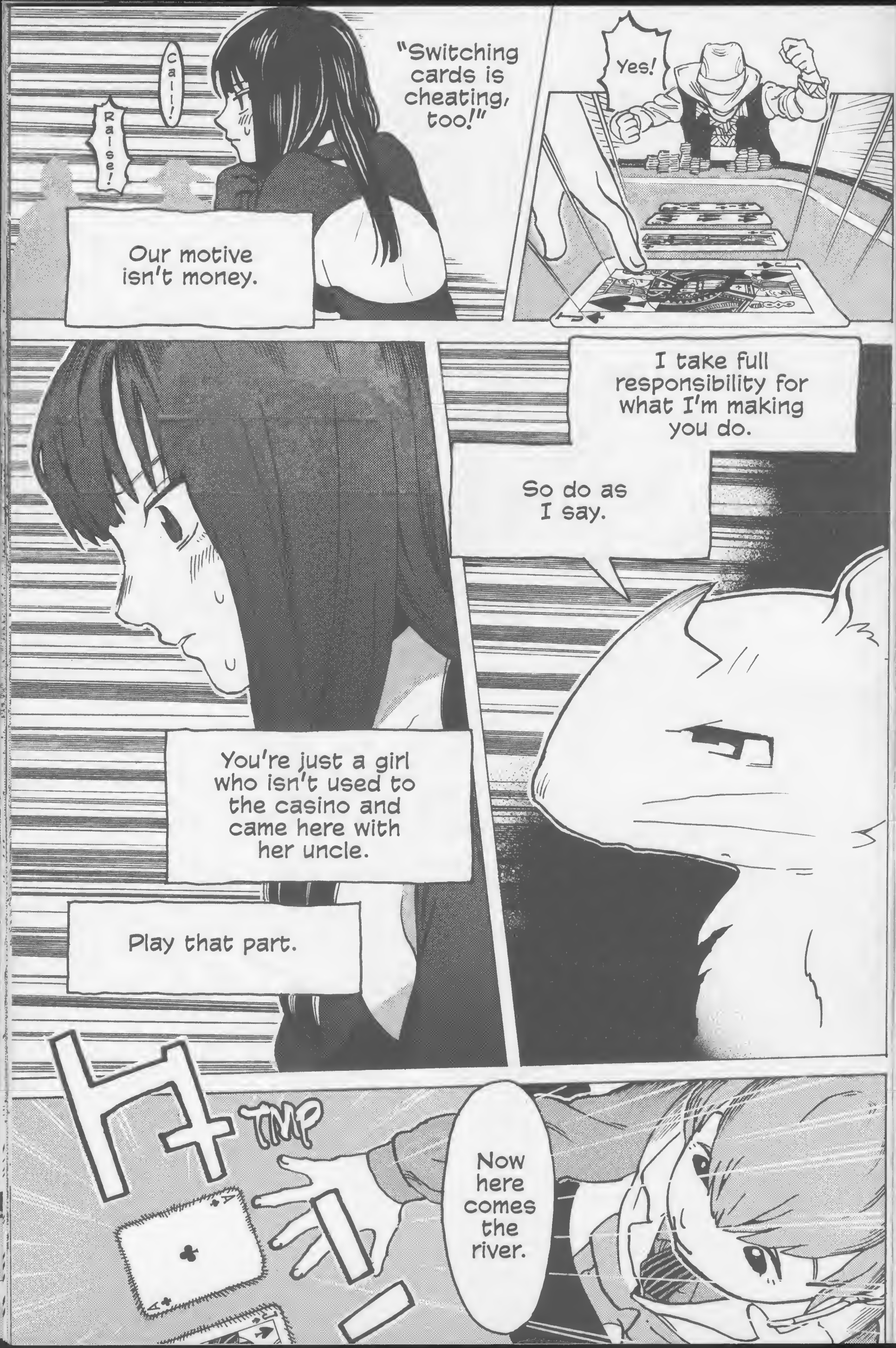

From the fat guy's signals, and the smell of the players' bodies.
"The smell of their bodies?"
"You know all the cards?"
When they have a good card, they feel relieved and confident.
Their scent changes depending on what suit and number they see.

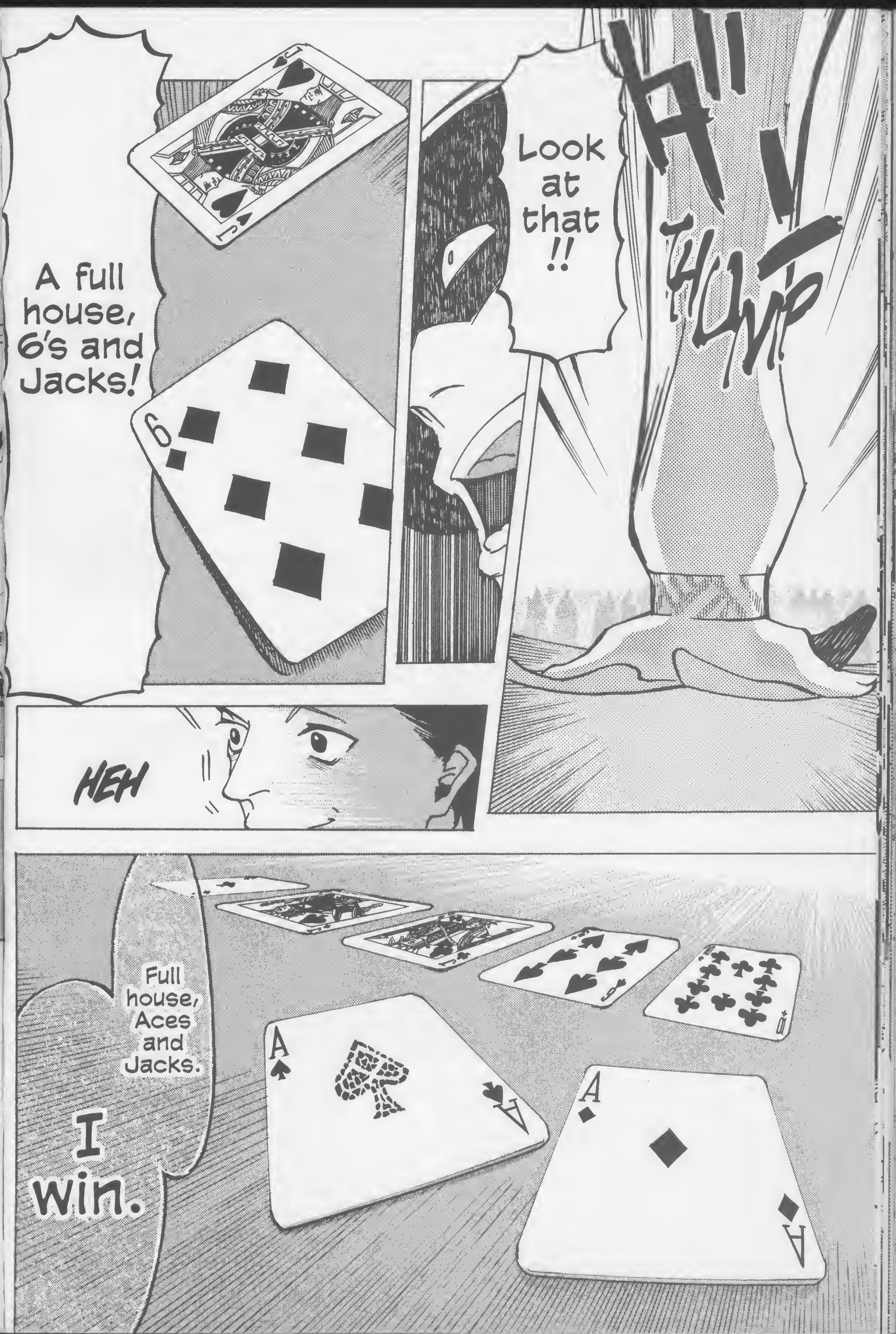

You have the King of clubs and the 8 of spades.
Don't worry.
!!
I have a plan.
The guy in the suit has the Ace of spades and the Ace of diamonds.
Doctor has the Queen of clubs and the 7 of hearts.
Queen of diamonds, 8 of hearts.
2 of hearts, 5 of clubs.
6 of diamonds, Jack of hearts.

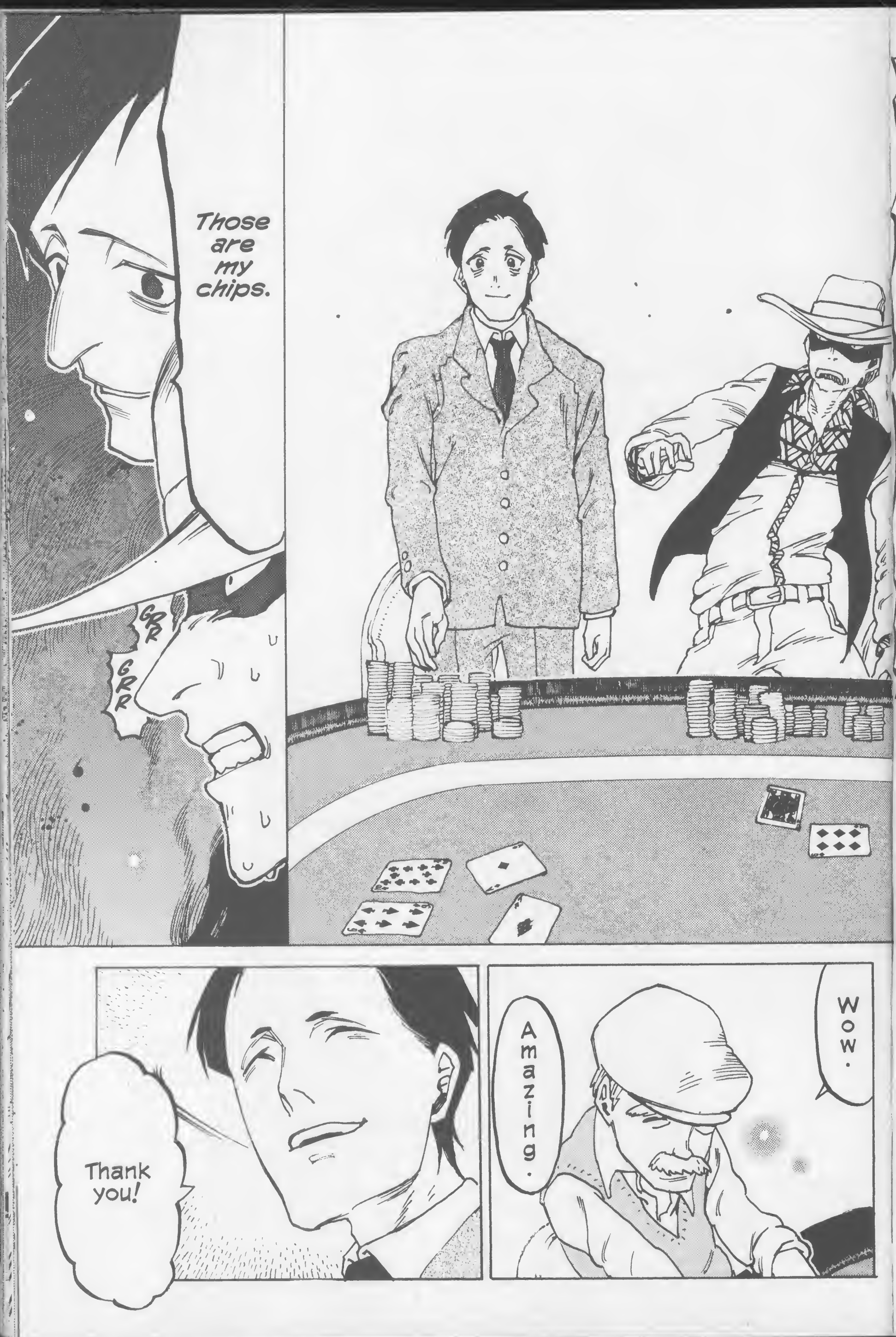

Here comes the flop.
FLIP
Listen to their breath...
"What?"
...and do it.
SLIDE
...
HAF
HA
PHEW
HOO

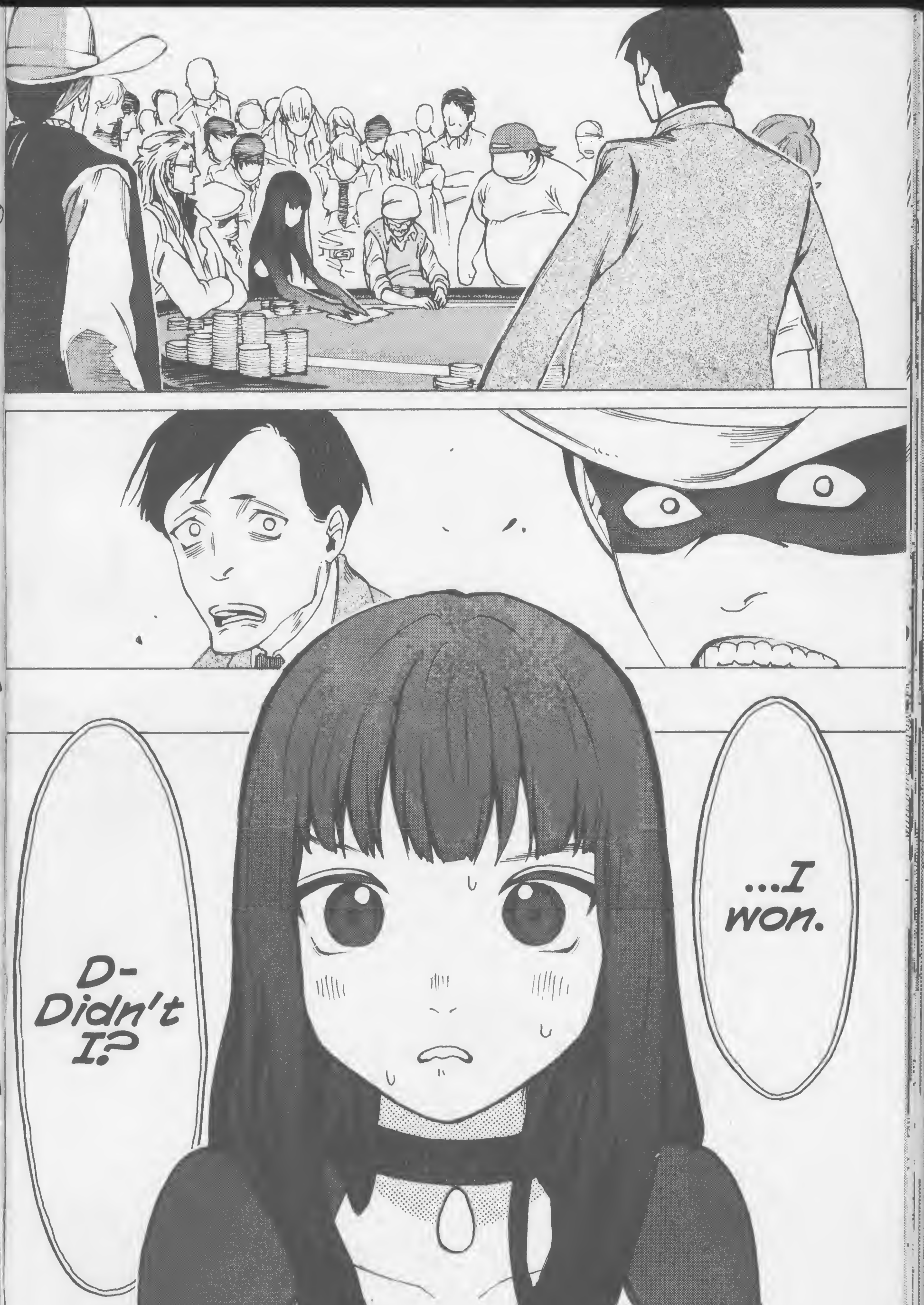

The way they breathed revealed what hands they had. Shift the camera 0.5 seconds.
"Okay."
FLICKER
ガコ
CLONK
Now!
FWOOSH

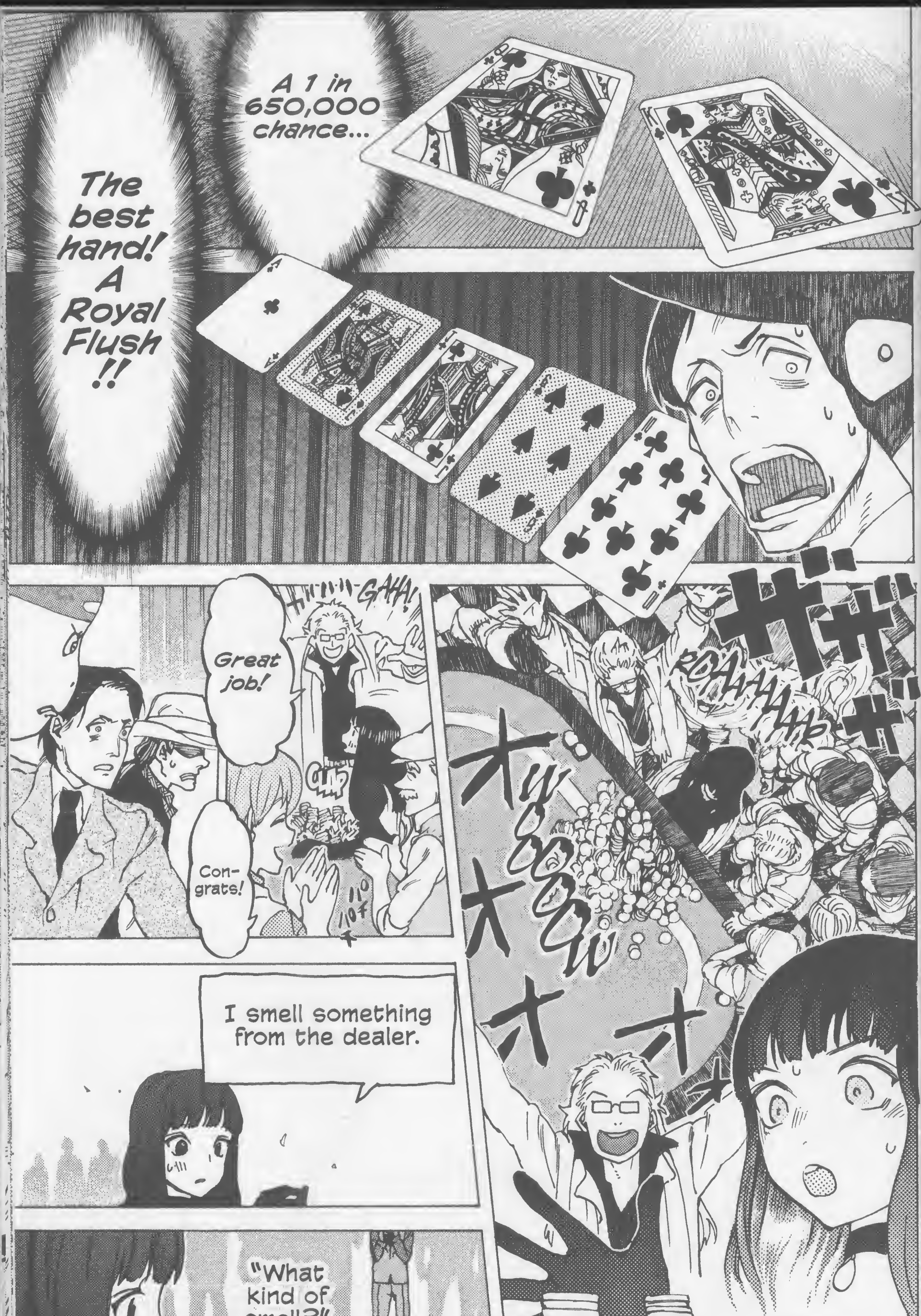

"What just happened?!"
We switched cards with Doctor.
!!
I fold.
"No one noticed!"
Now here's the turn.

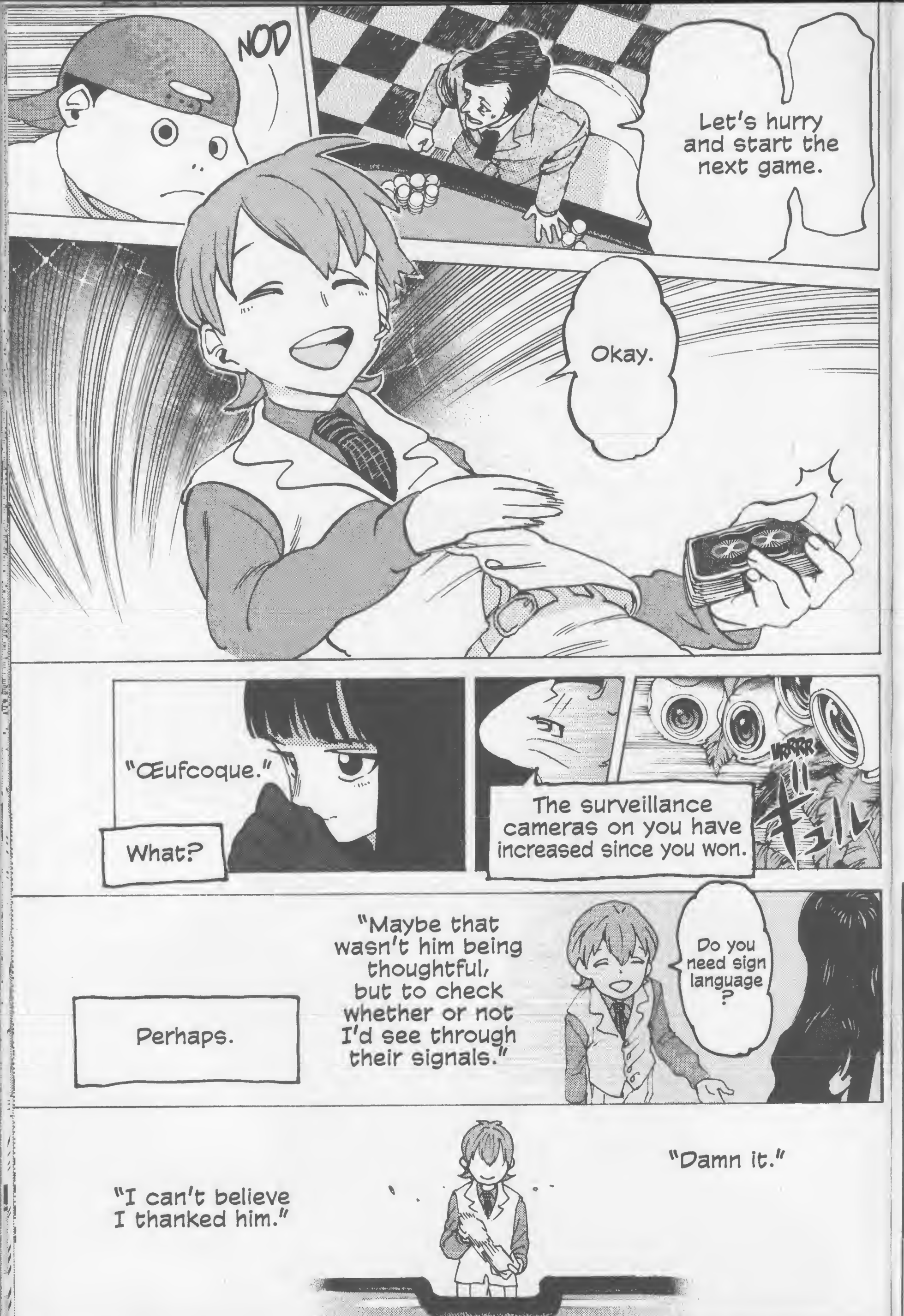

Yes!
"Switching cards is cheating, too!"
Call!
Raise!
Our motive isn't money.
I take full responsibility for what I'm making you do.
So do as I say.
You're just a girl who isn't used to the casino and came here with her uncle.
Play that part.
Now here comes the river.
TMP

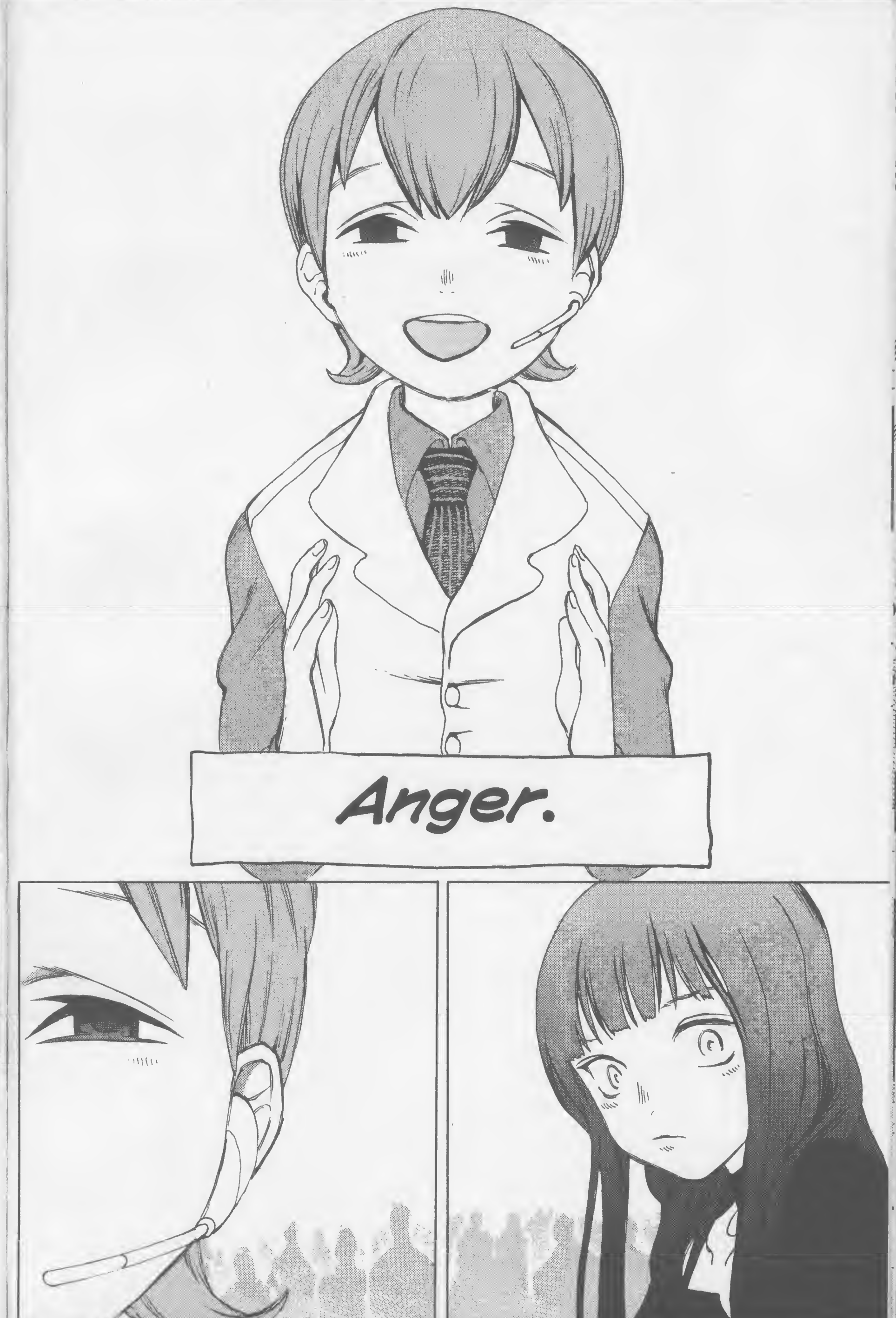

THUMP
Look at that!!
A full house, 6's and Jacks!
HEH
Full house, Aces and Jacks.
I win.

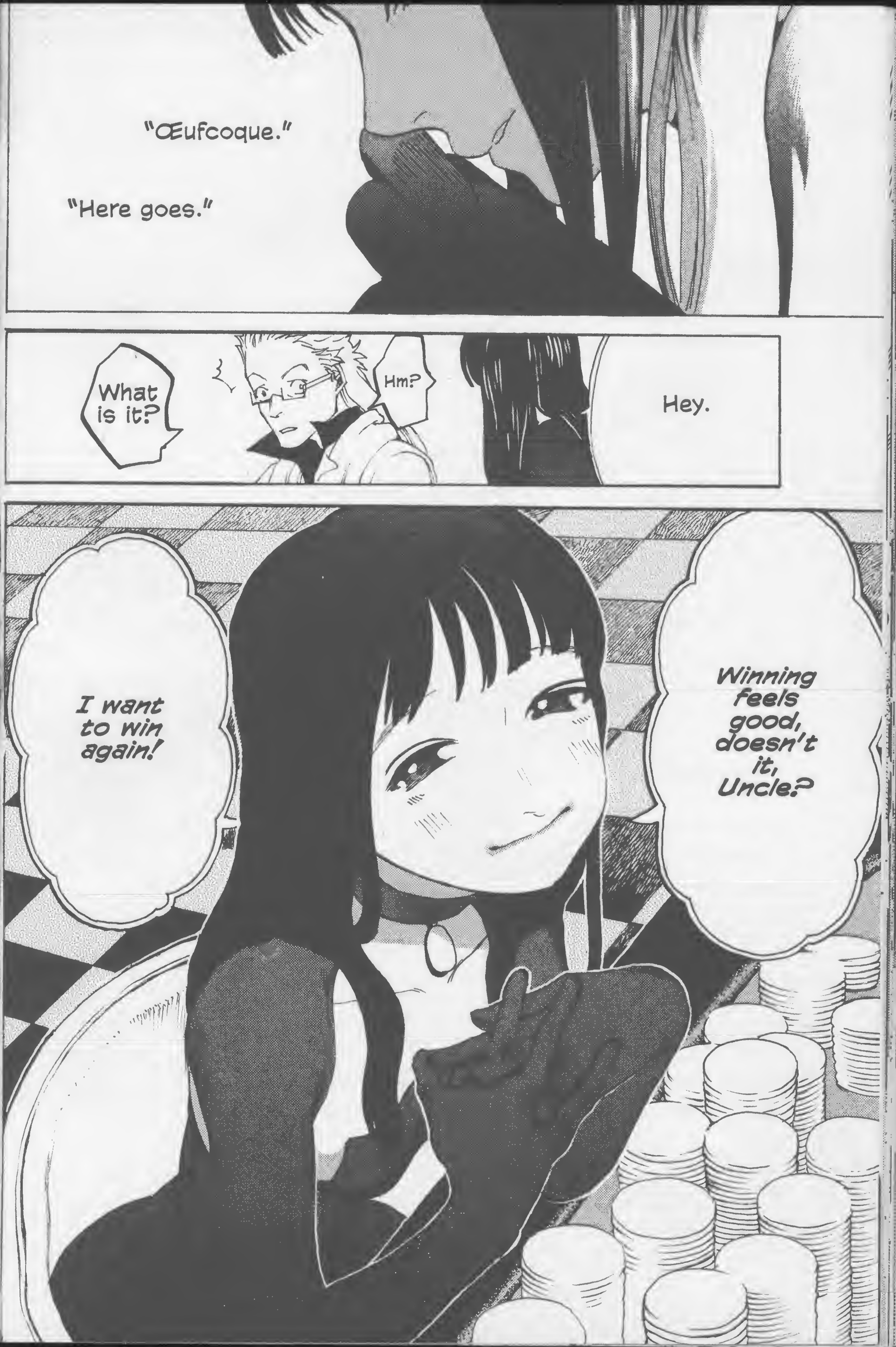

Those are my chips.
GRR GRR GRR
Wow.
Amazing.
Thank you!

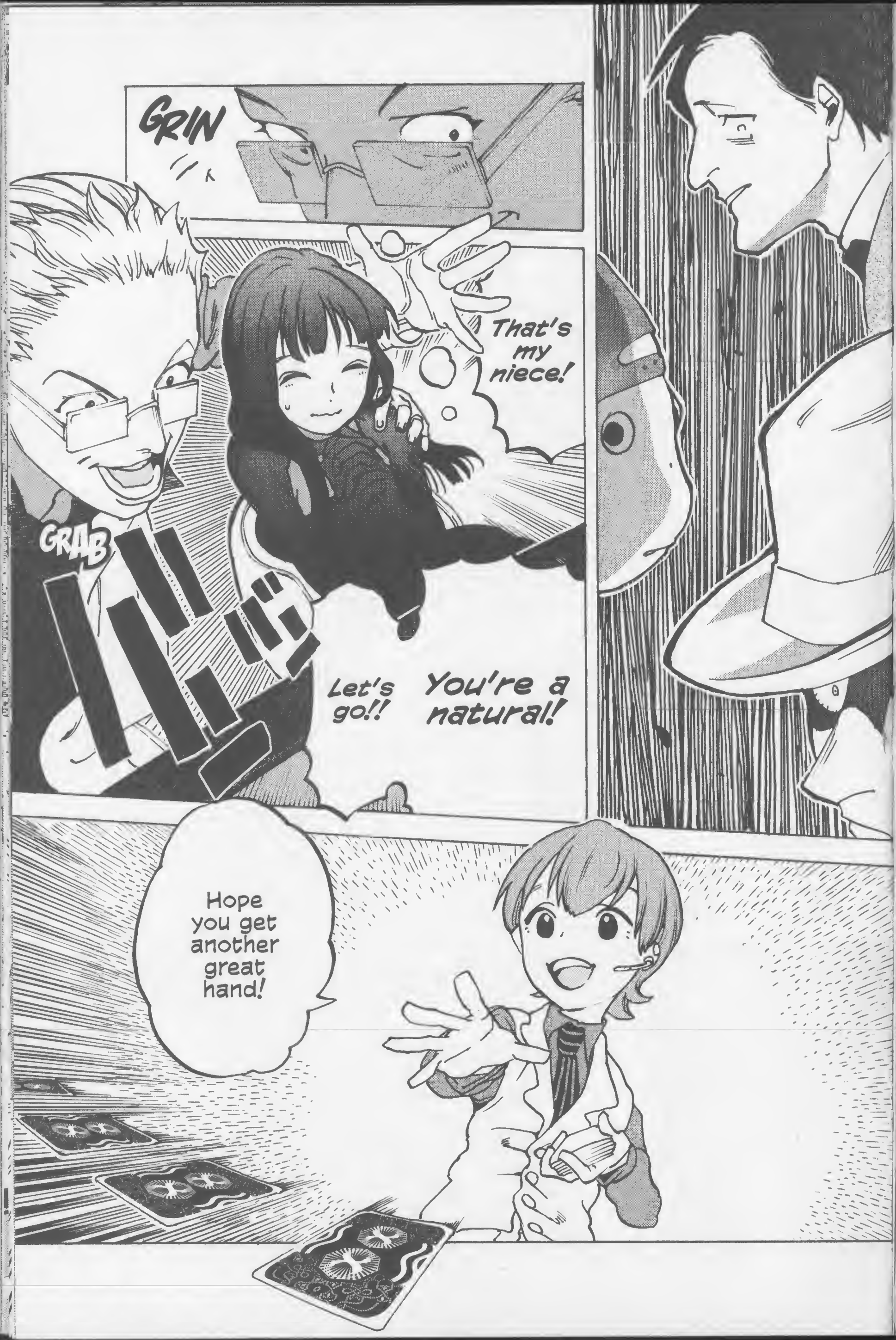

...I won.
D-Didn't I?

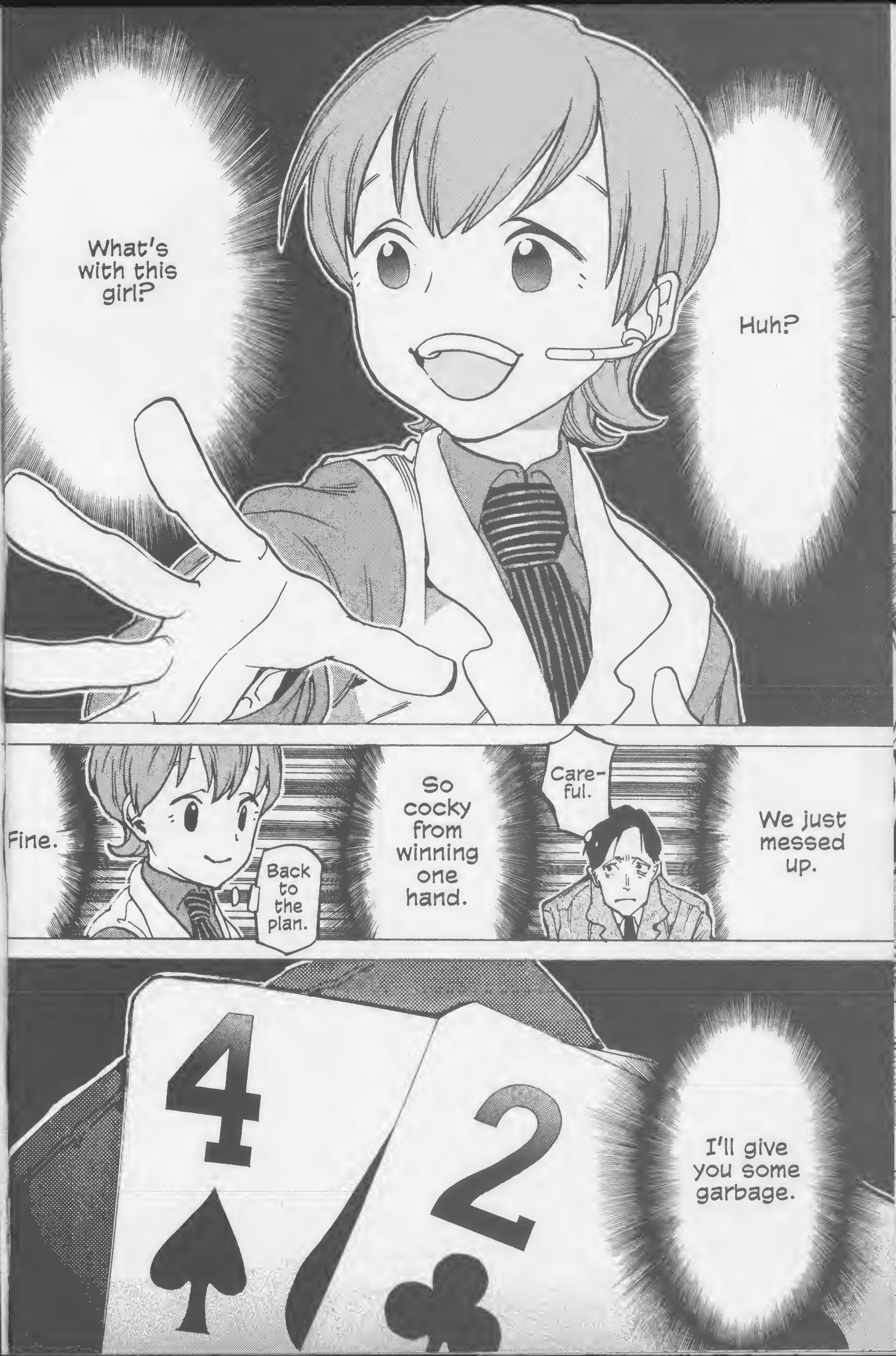

A 1 in 650,000 chance...
The best hand! A Royal Flush!!
ザザザ
ROAAAAAAAR
オオオオ
GAHA!
Great job!
Congrats!
ハハ
I smell something from the dealer.
"What kind of smell?"

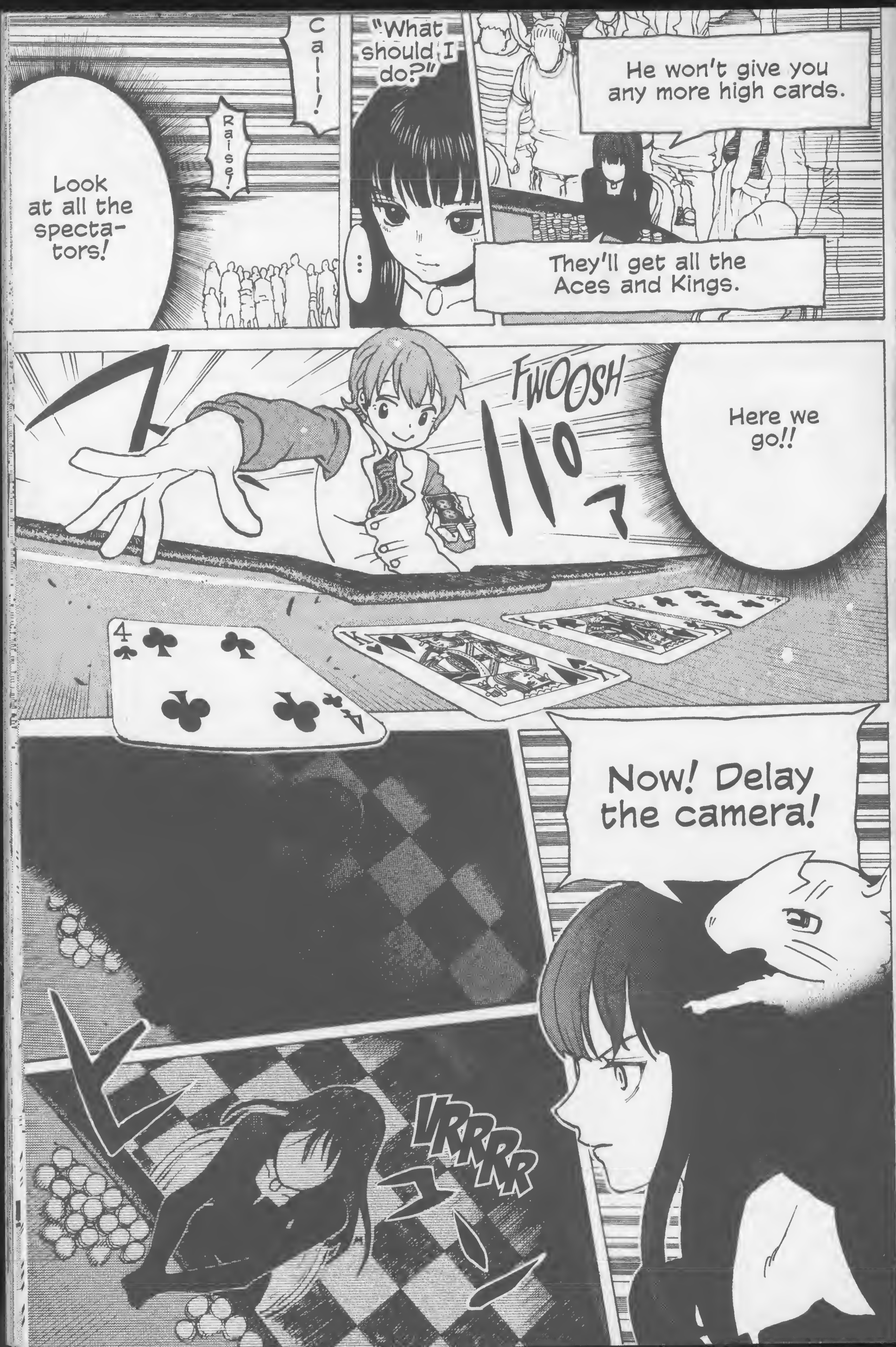

NOD
Let's hurry and start the next game.
Okay.
"Œufcoque."
What?
The surveillance cameras on you have increased since you won.
VRRRR
ギュル
Do you need sign language?
"Maybe that wasn't him being thoughtful, but to check whether or not I'd see through their signals."
Perhaps.
"Damn it."
"I can't believe I thanked him."

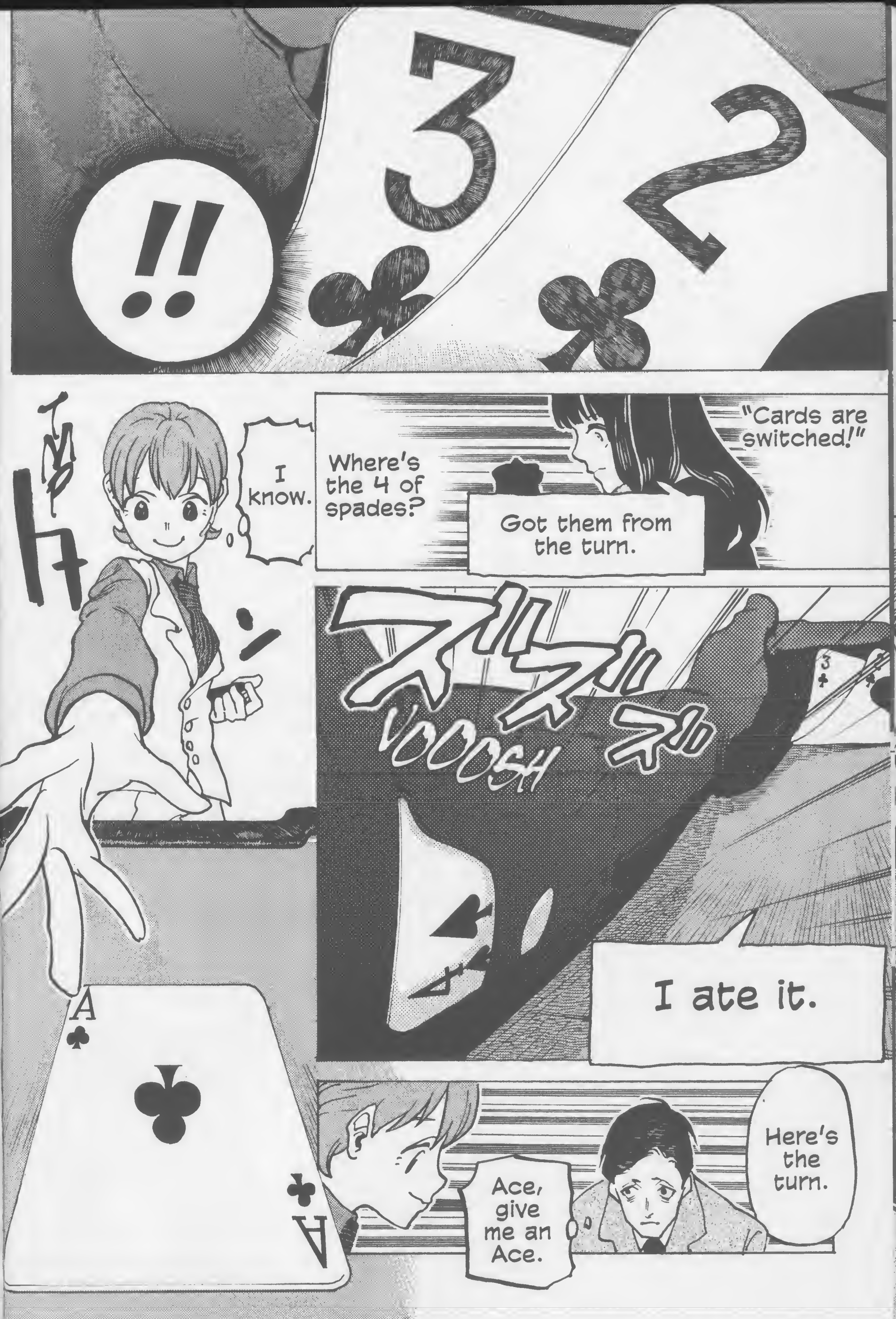

Anger.

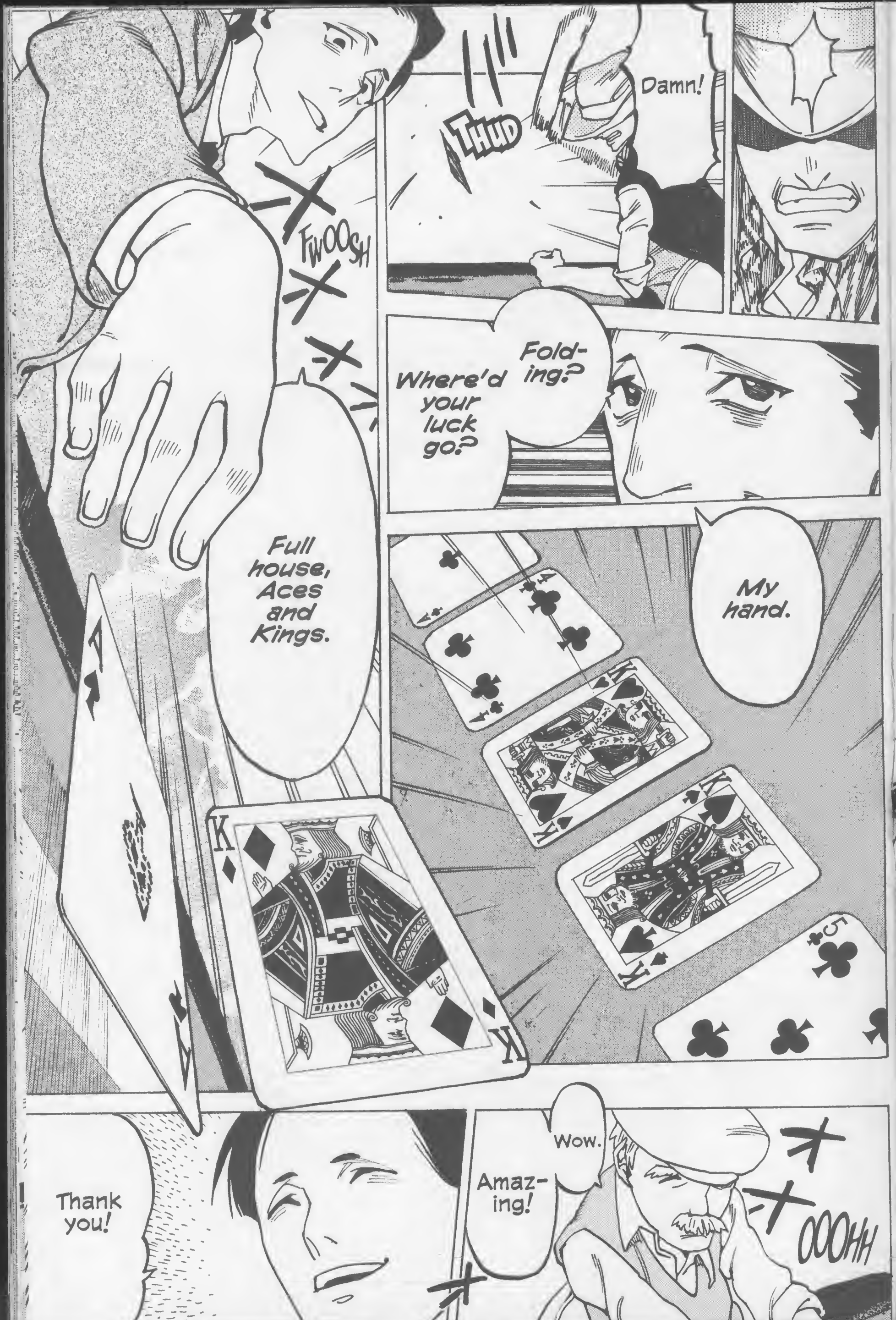

"Œufcoque."
"Here goes."
Hey.
Hm?
What is it?
Winning feels good, doesn't it, Uncle?
I want to win again!

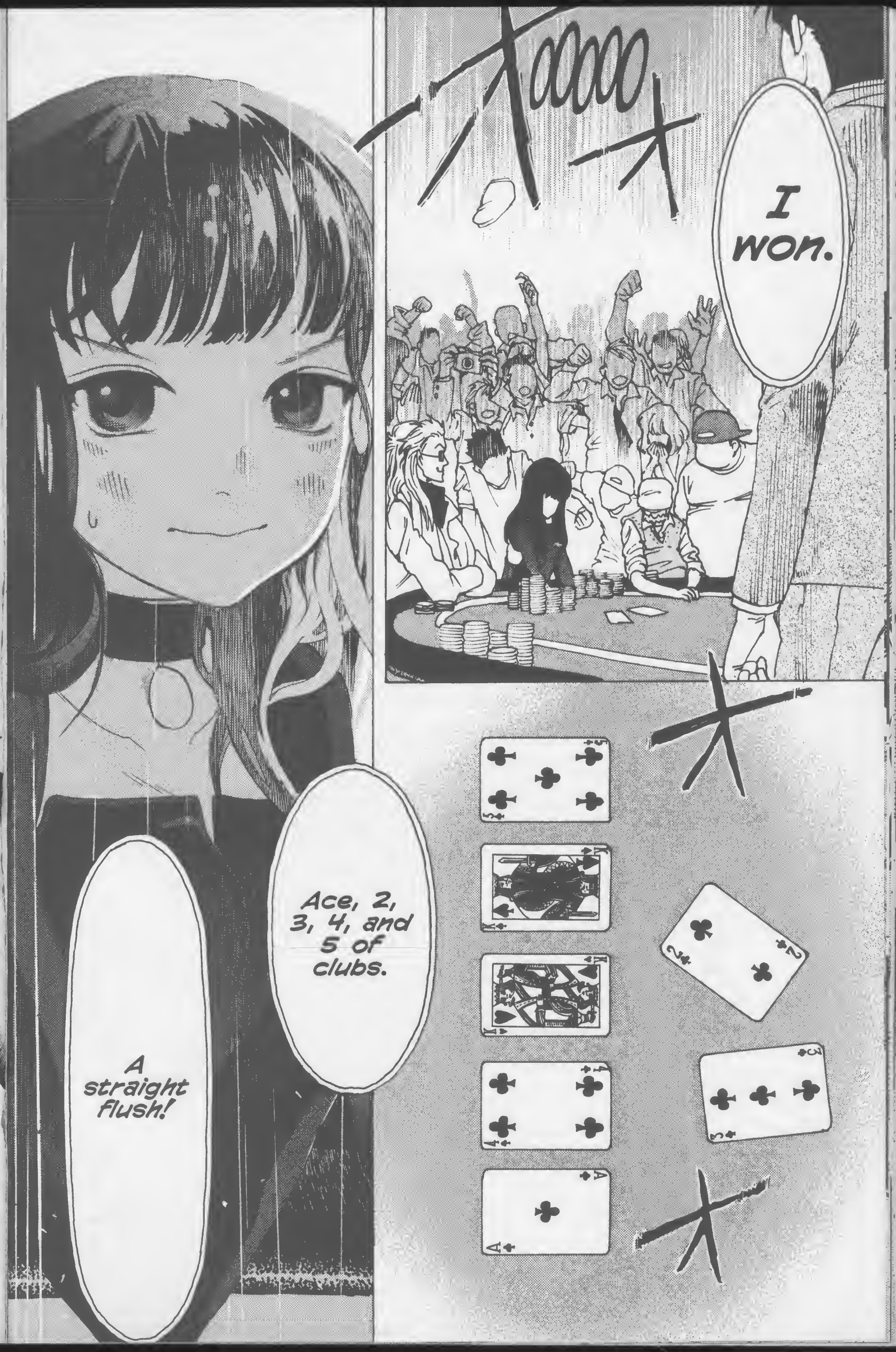

GRIN
That's my niece!
GRAB
You're a natural!
Let's go!!
Hope you get another great hand!

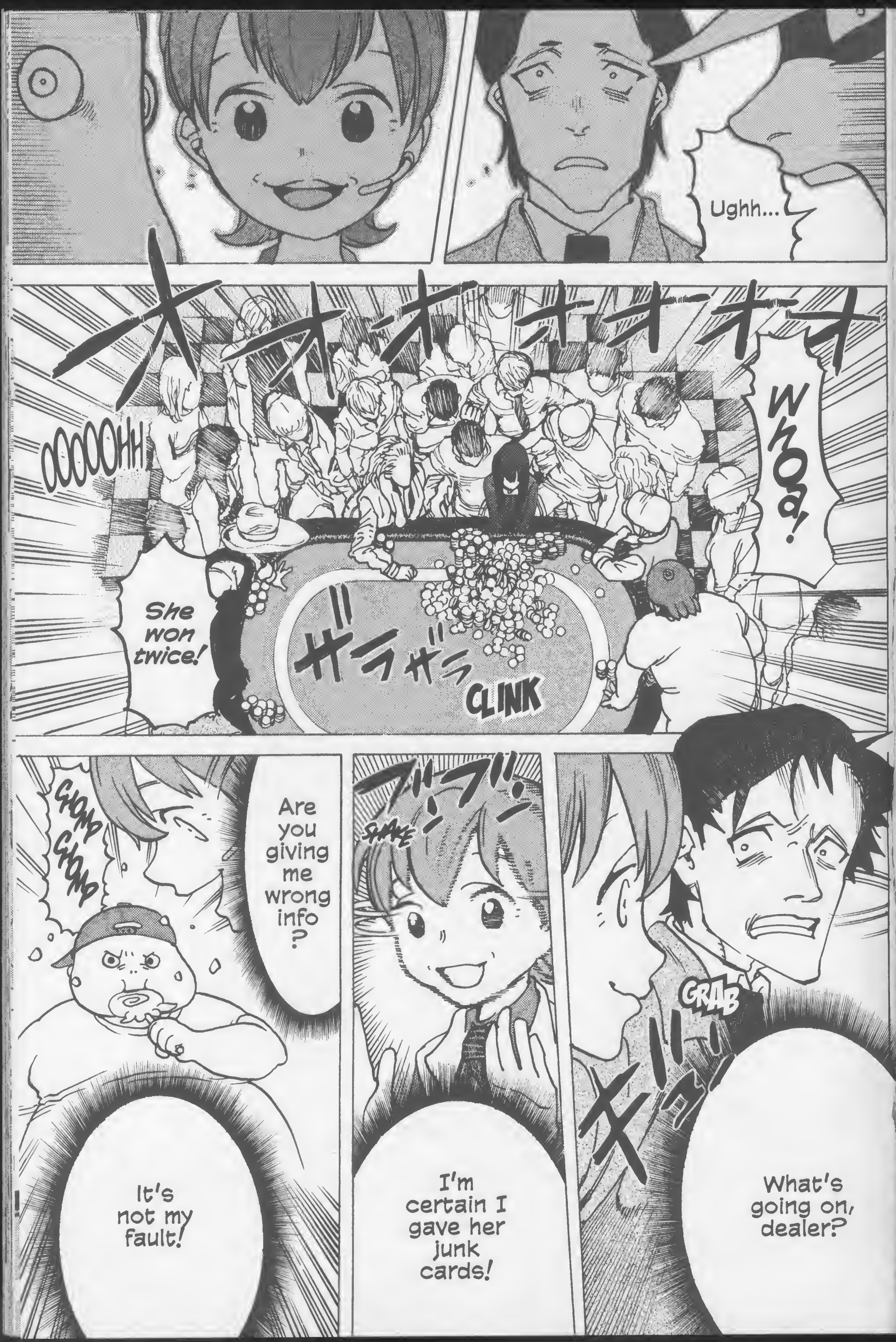

Huh?
What's with this girl?
We just messed up.
Careful.
So cocky from winning one hand.
Back to the plan.
Fine.
I'll give you some garbage.

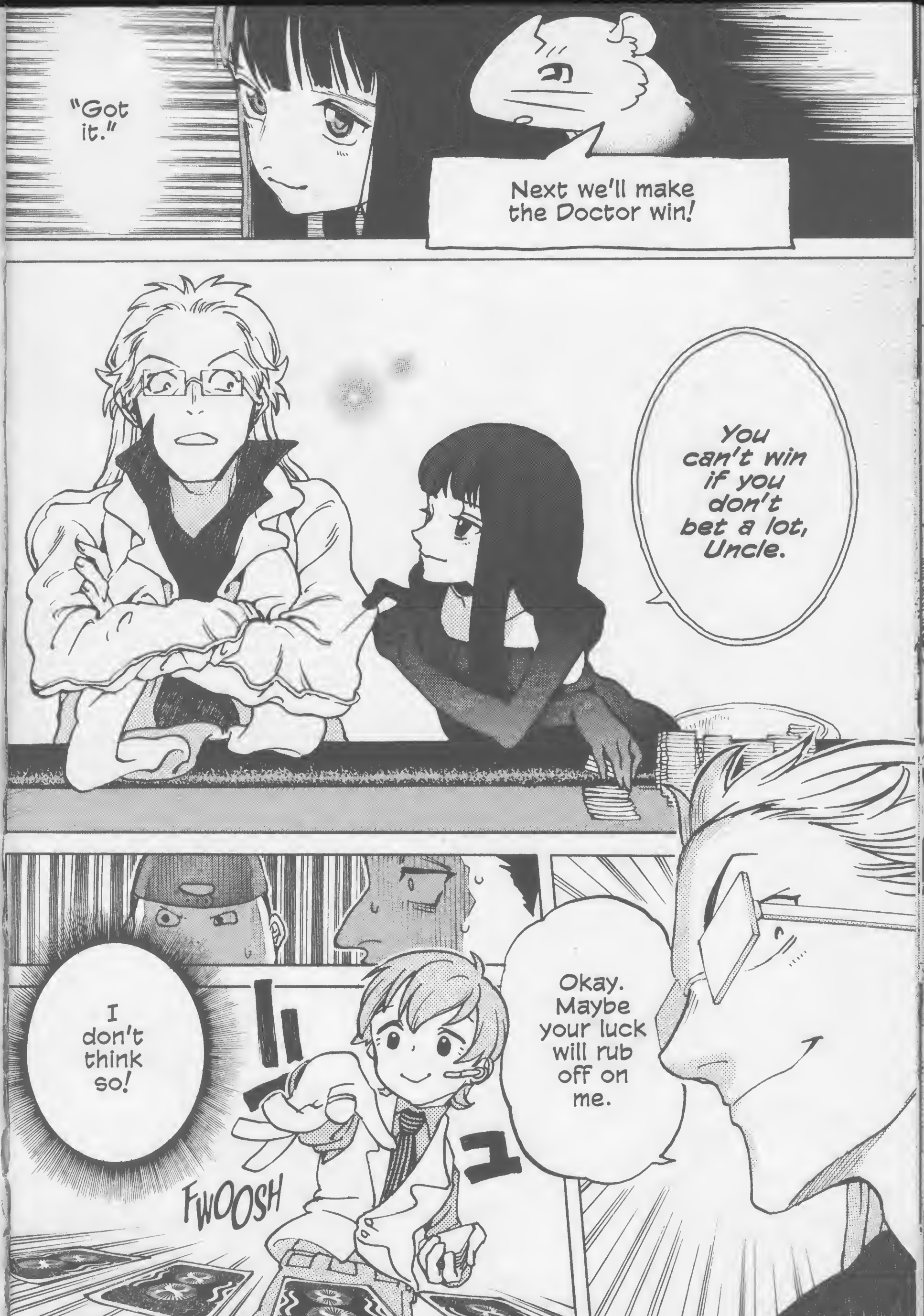

He won't give you any more high cards.
They'll get all the Aces and Kings.
"What should I do?"
...
Call!
Raise!
Look at all the spectators!
FWOOSH
Here we go!!
Now! Delay the camera!
VRRRRR

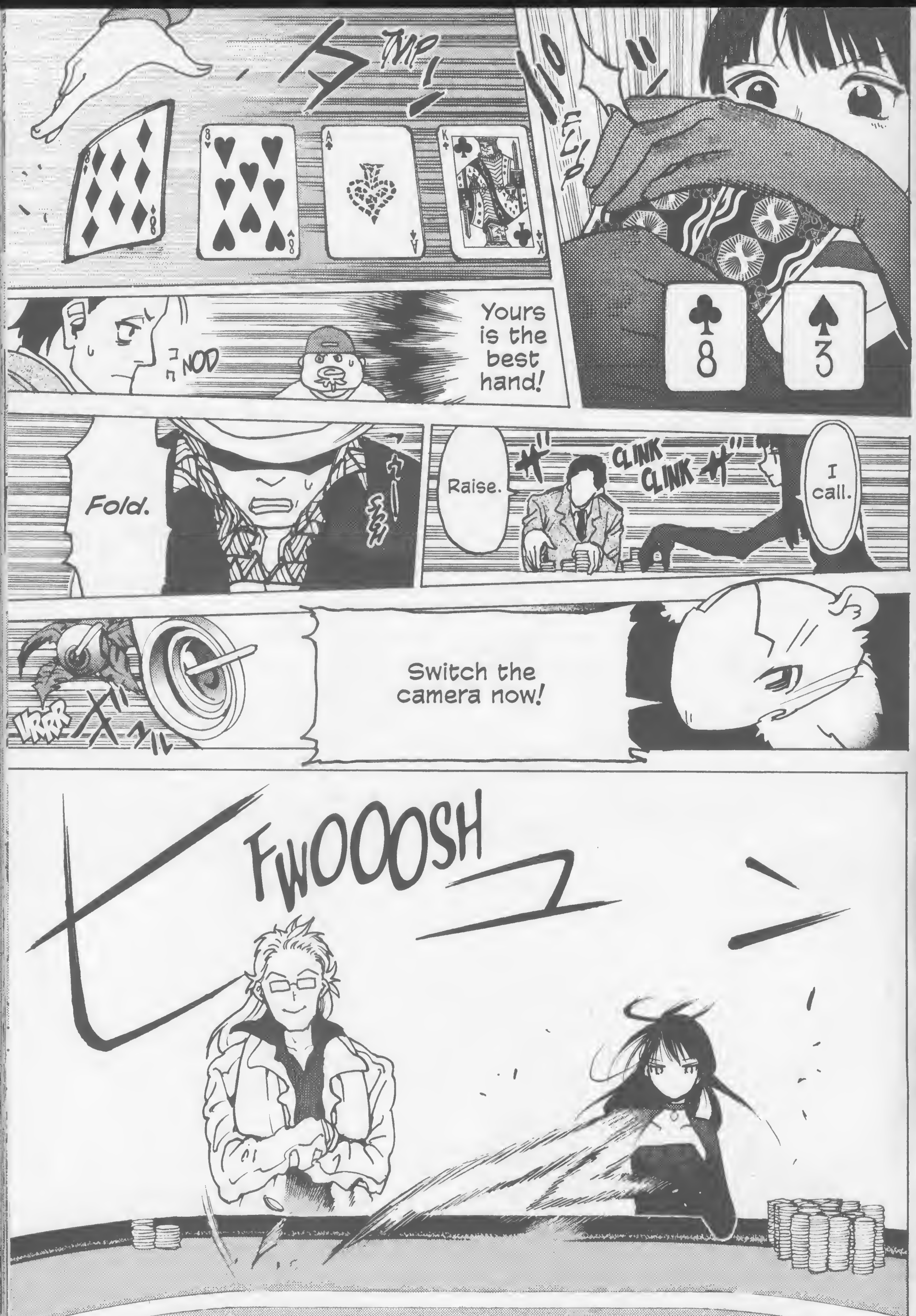

!!
"Cards are switched!"
Got them from the turn.
Where's the 4 of spades?
I know.
VOOOSH
I ate it.
Here's the turn.
Ace, give me an Ace.

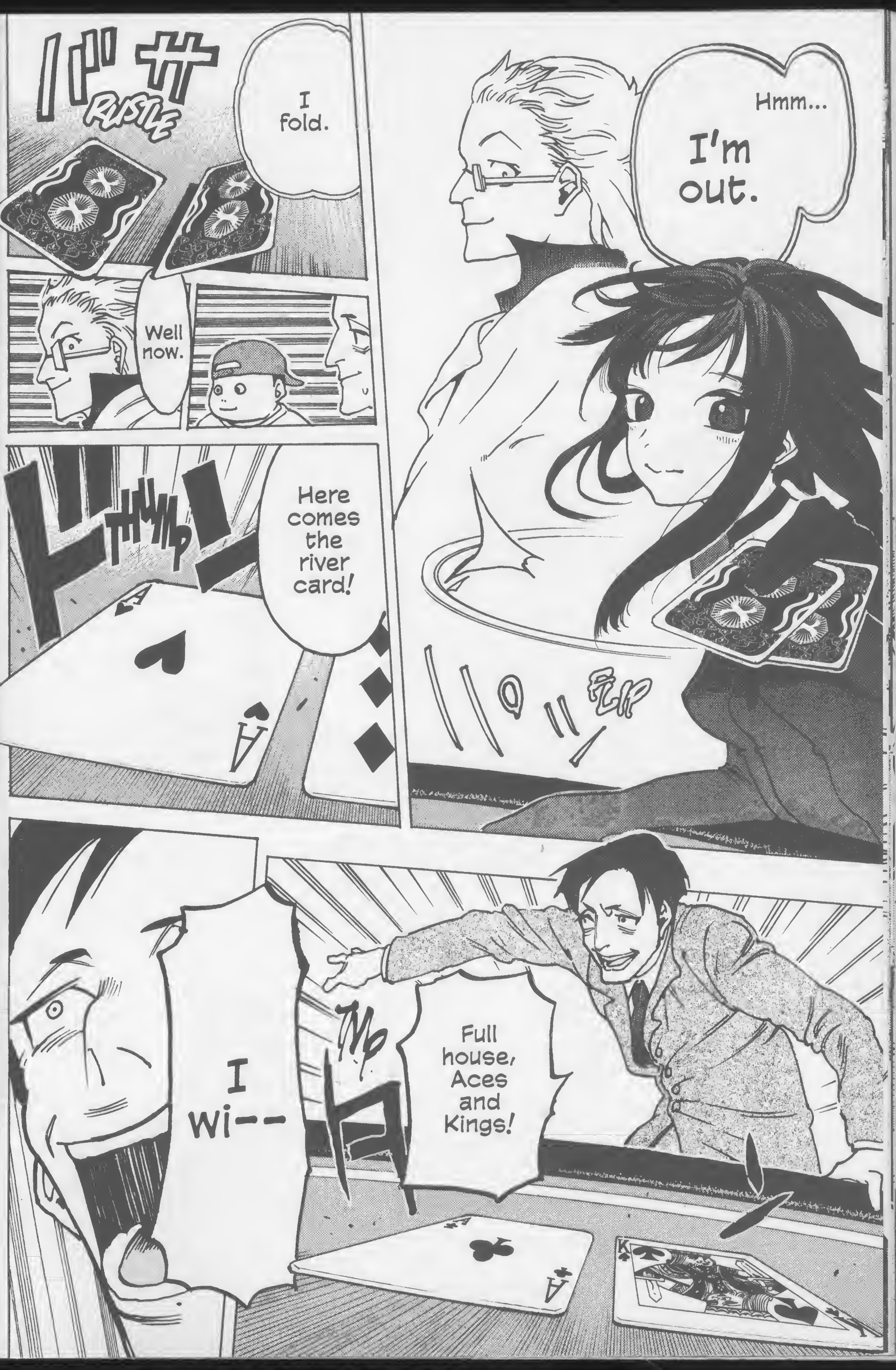

Damn!
THUD
Folding?
Where'd your luck go?
FWOOSH
My hand.
Full house, Aces and Kings.
OOOHH
Wow.
Amazing!
Thank you!

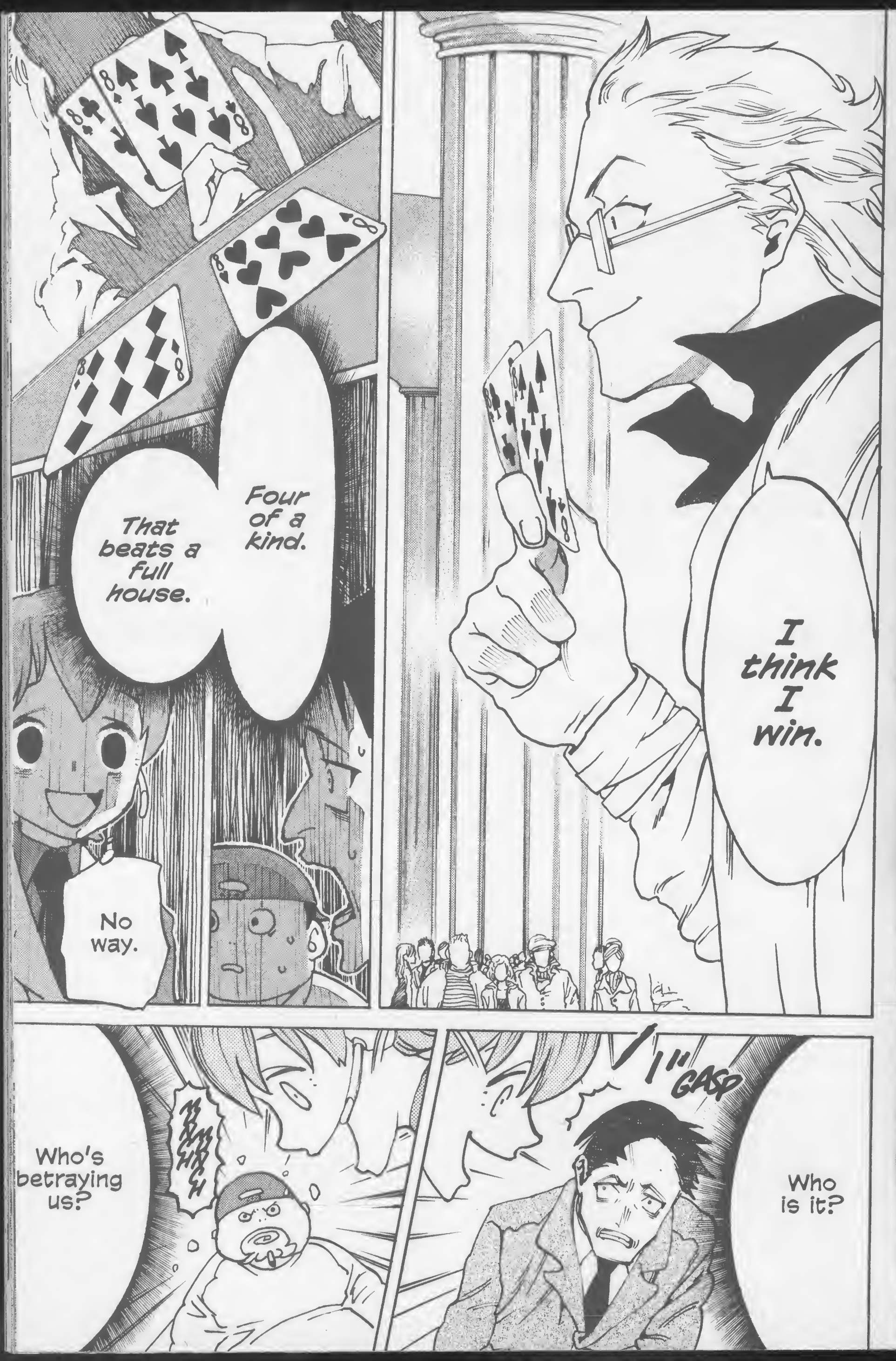

オoooooオ
I won.
オ
Ace, 2, 3, 4, and 5 of clubs.
A straight flush!
オ

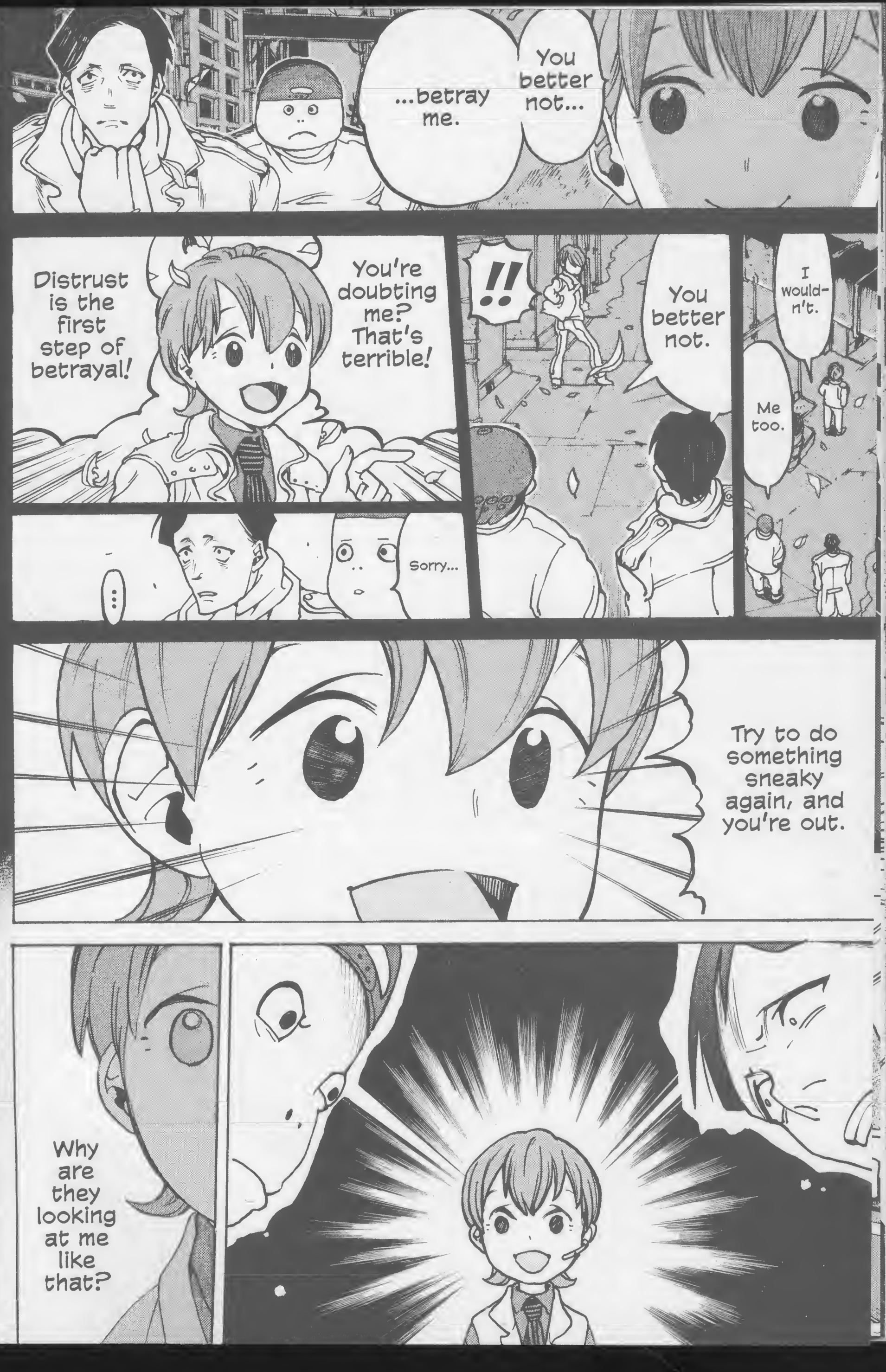

Ughh...
オォォォォォォォ
Whoa!
OOOOOHH
She won twice!
ザラザラ
CLINK
What's going on, dealer?
GRAB
I'm certain I gave her junk cards!
SHAKE
Are you giving me wrong info?
CHOMP CHOMP
It's not my fault!

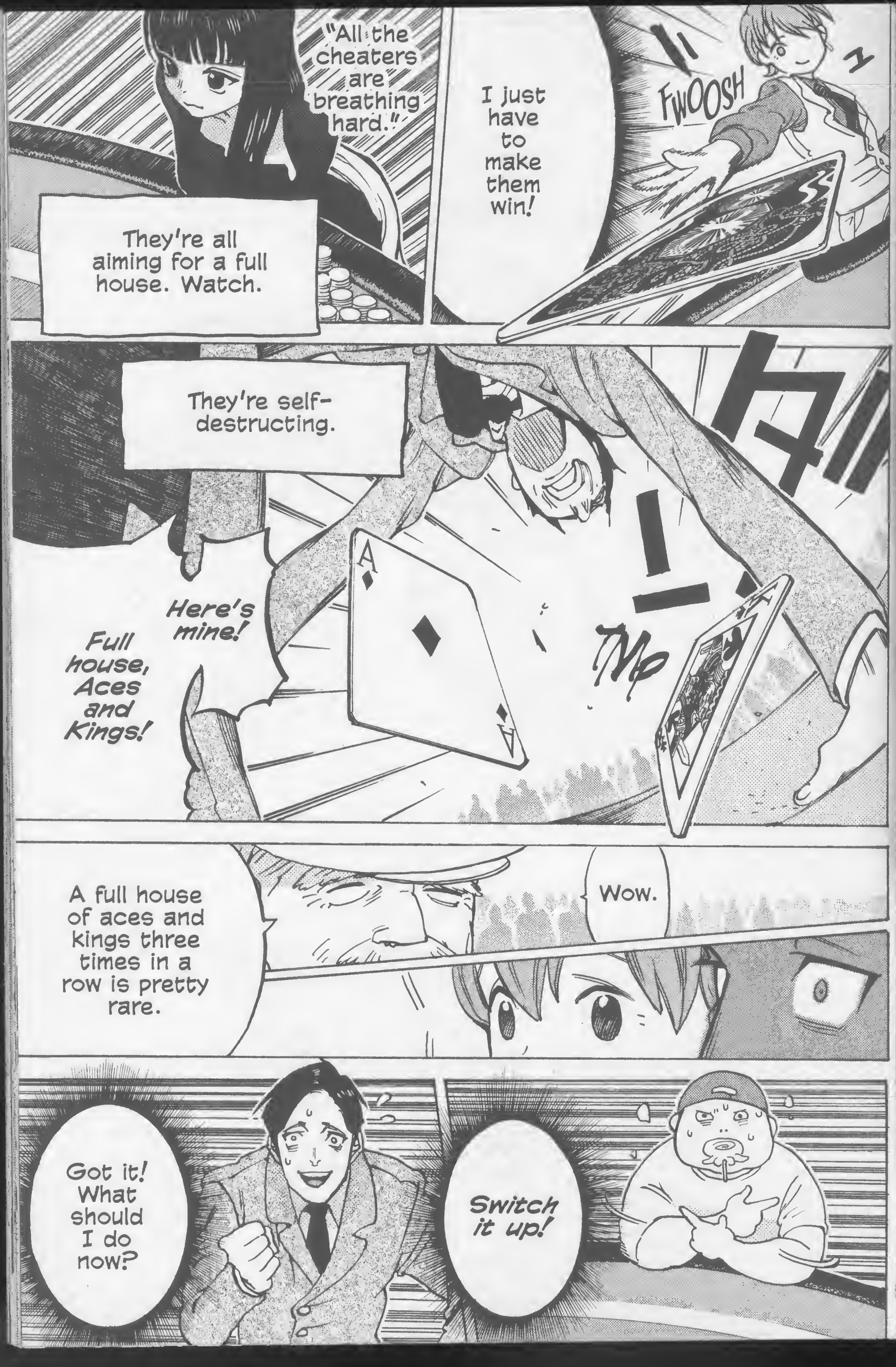

Next we'll make the Doctor win!
"Got it."
You can't win if you don't bet a lot, Uncle.
Okay. Maybe your luck will rub off on me.
I don't think so!
FWOOSH

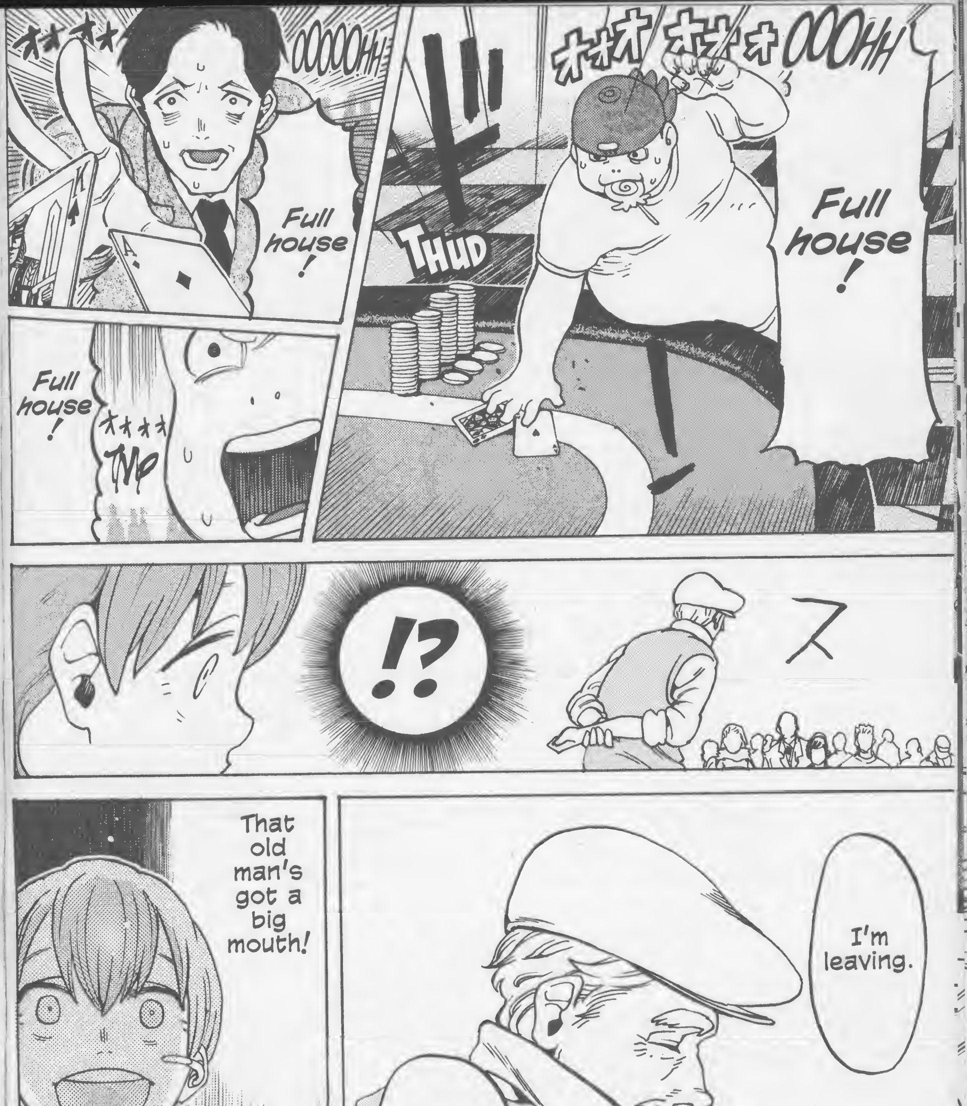

TMP
Yours is the best hand!
NOD
I call.
CLINK CLINK
Raise.
Fold.
Switch the camera now!
VRRR
FWOOOSH

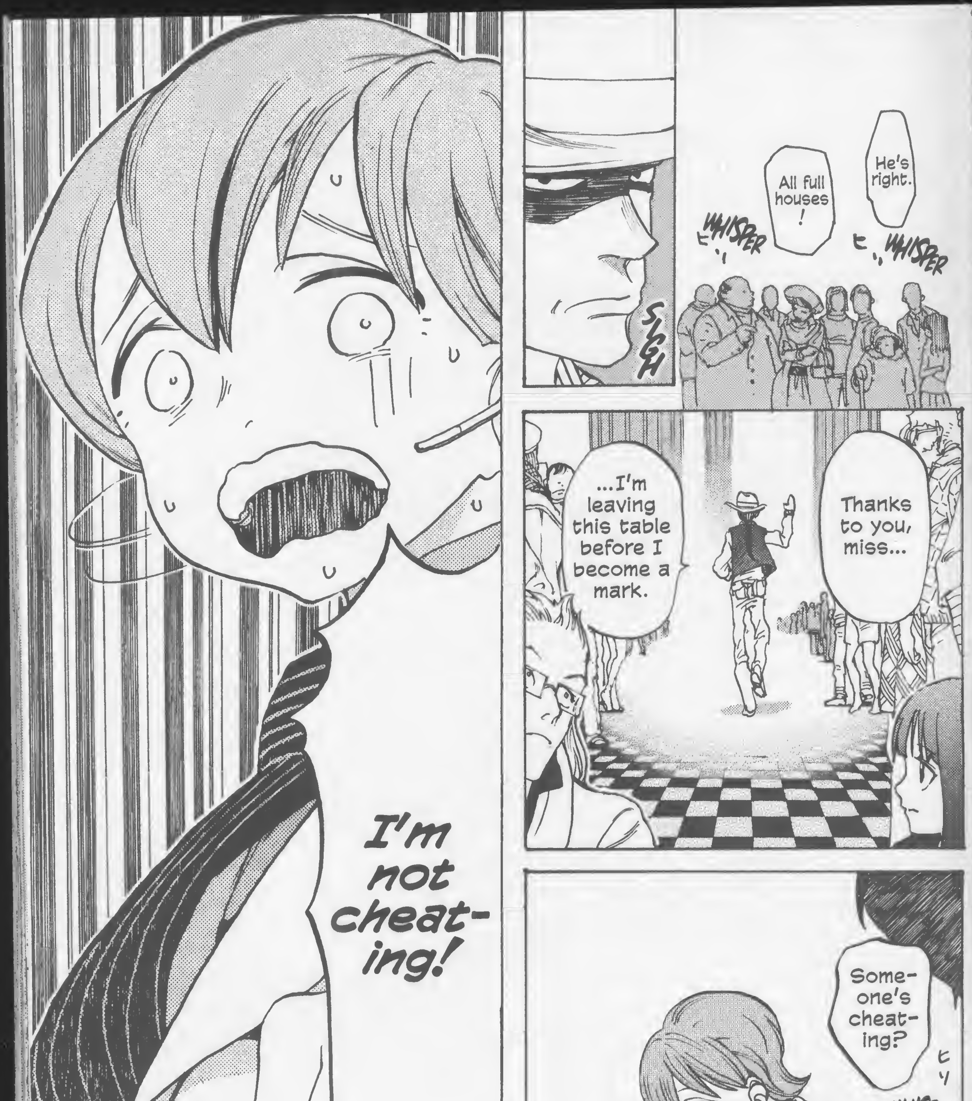

Hmm...
I'm out.
バサ RUSTLE
I fold.
Well now.
ドン THUMP
Here comes the river card!
FLIP
TMP
Full house, Aces and Kings!
I Wi--

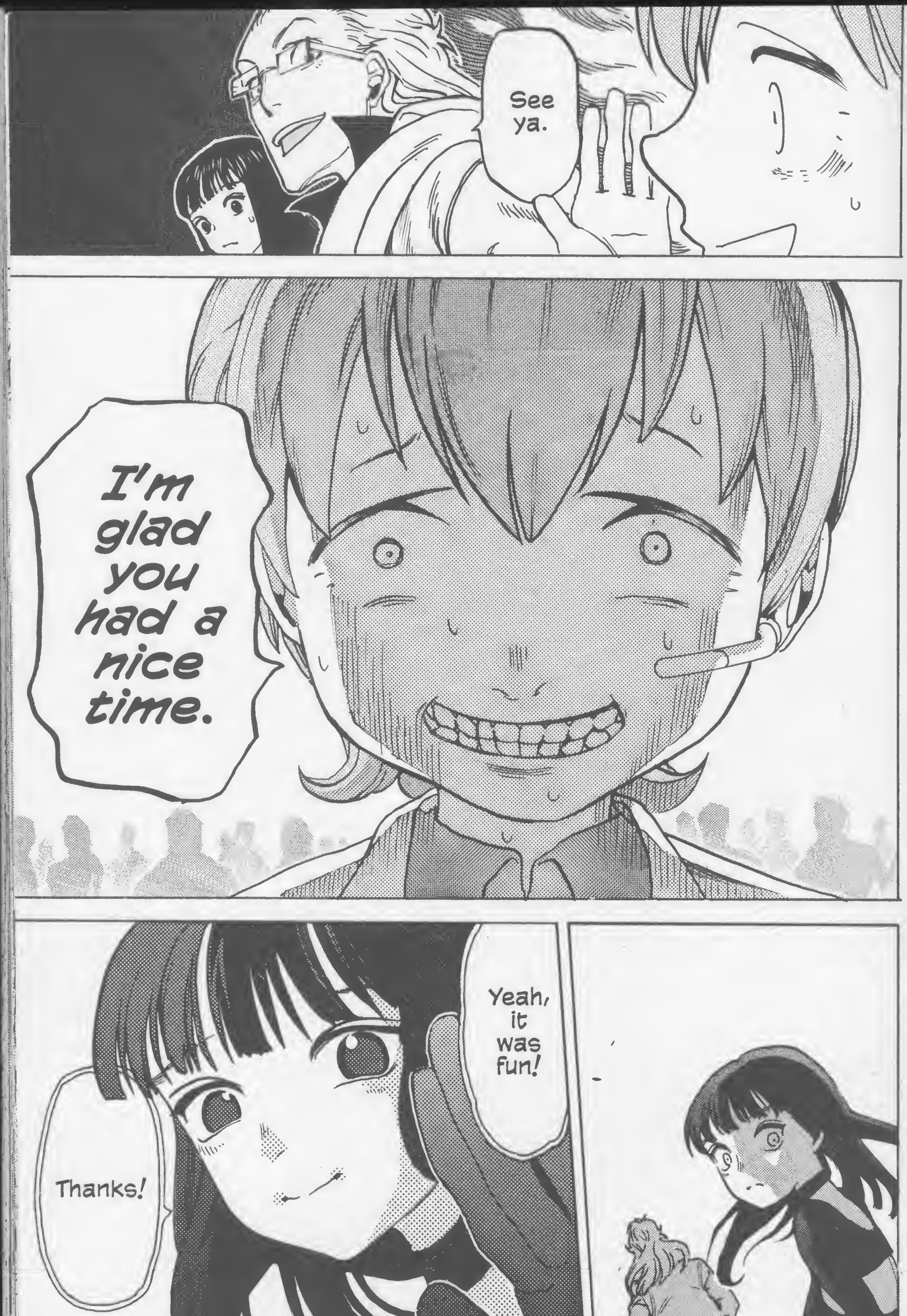

I think I win.
Four of a kind.
That beats a full house.
No way.
GASP
Who is it?
MUNCH MUNCH
Who's betraying us?

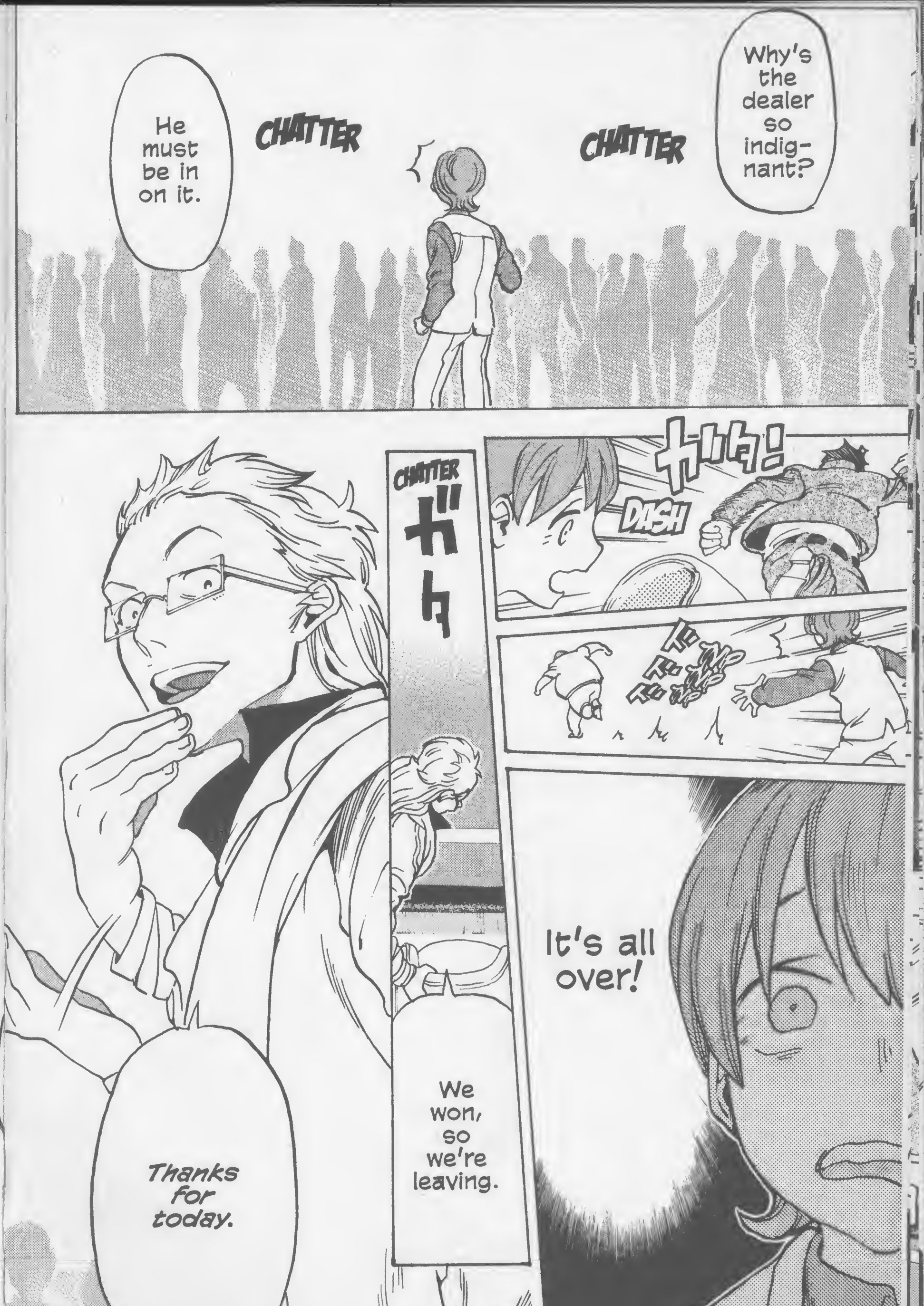

You better not...
...betray me.
I wouldn't.
Me too.
!!
You better not.
You're doubting me? That's terrible!
Distrust is the first step of betrayal!
Sorry...
...
Try to do something sneaky again, and you're out.
Why are they looking at me like that?

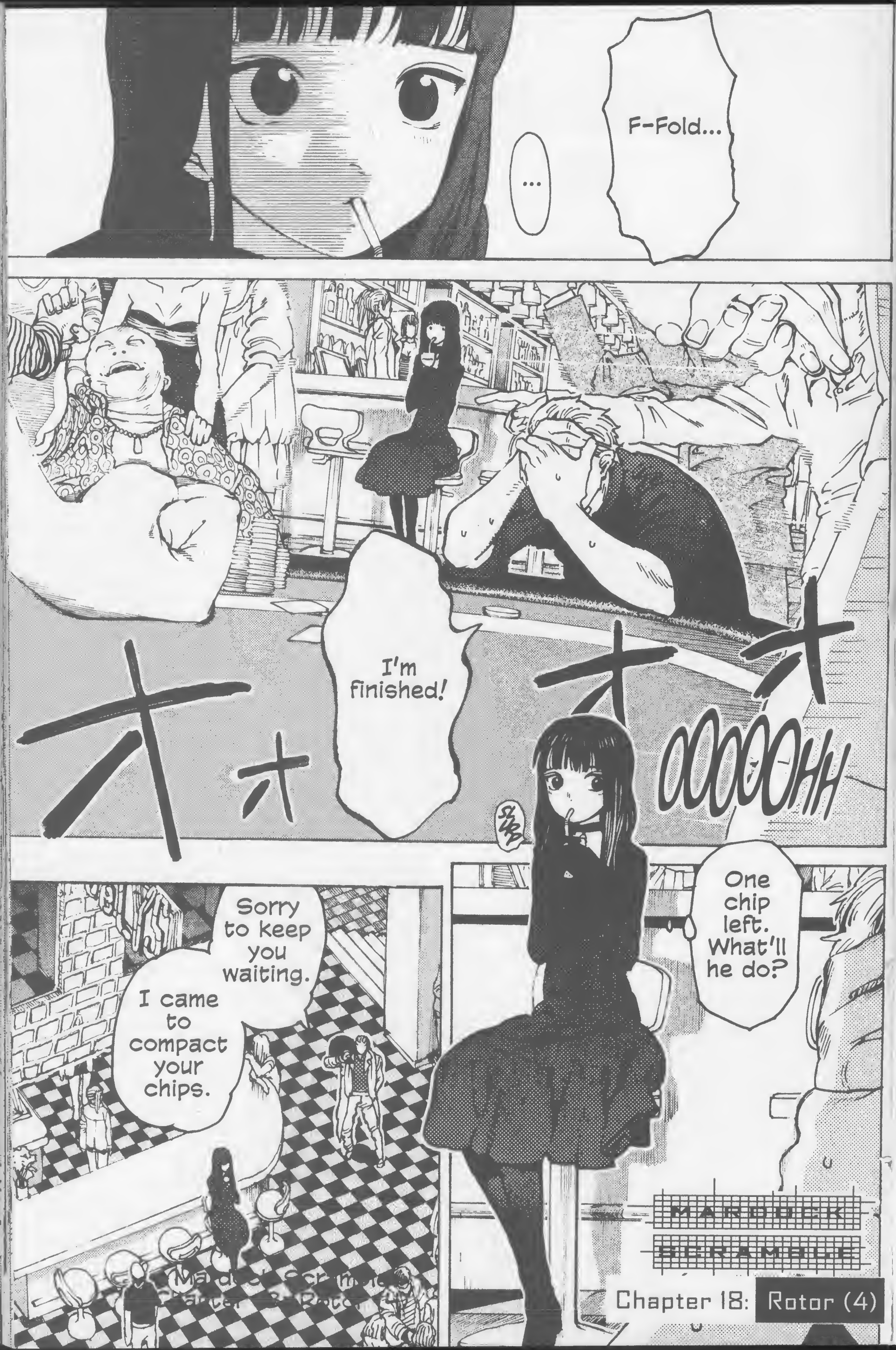

FWOOSH
I just have to make them win!
"All the cheaters are breathing hard."
They're all aiming for a full house. Watch.
They're self-destructing.
Here's mine!
Full house, Aces and Kings!
Wow.
A full house of aces and kings three times in a row is pretty rare.
Switch it up!
Got it! What should I do now?


オオオ オォォ OOOHH
Full house!
THUD
オオオオ
OOOOOHH
Full house!
Full house!
オォォォ
TMP
!?
ス
I'm leaving.
Something fishy's going on at this table.
That old man's got a big mouth!


He's right.
ヒソ WHISPER
All full houses!
ヒソ WHISPER
SIGH
Thanks to you, miss...
...I'm leaving this table before I become a mark.
Someone's cheating?
ヒソ WHISPER
Looks like it.
ヒソ WHISPER
I'm not cheating!

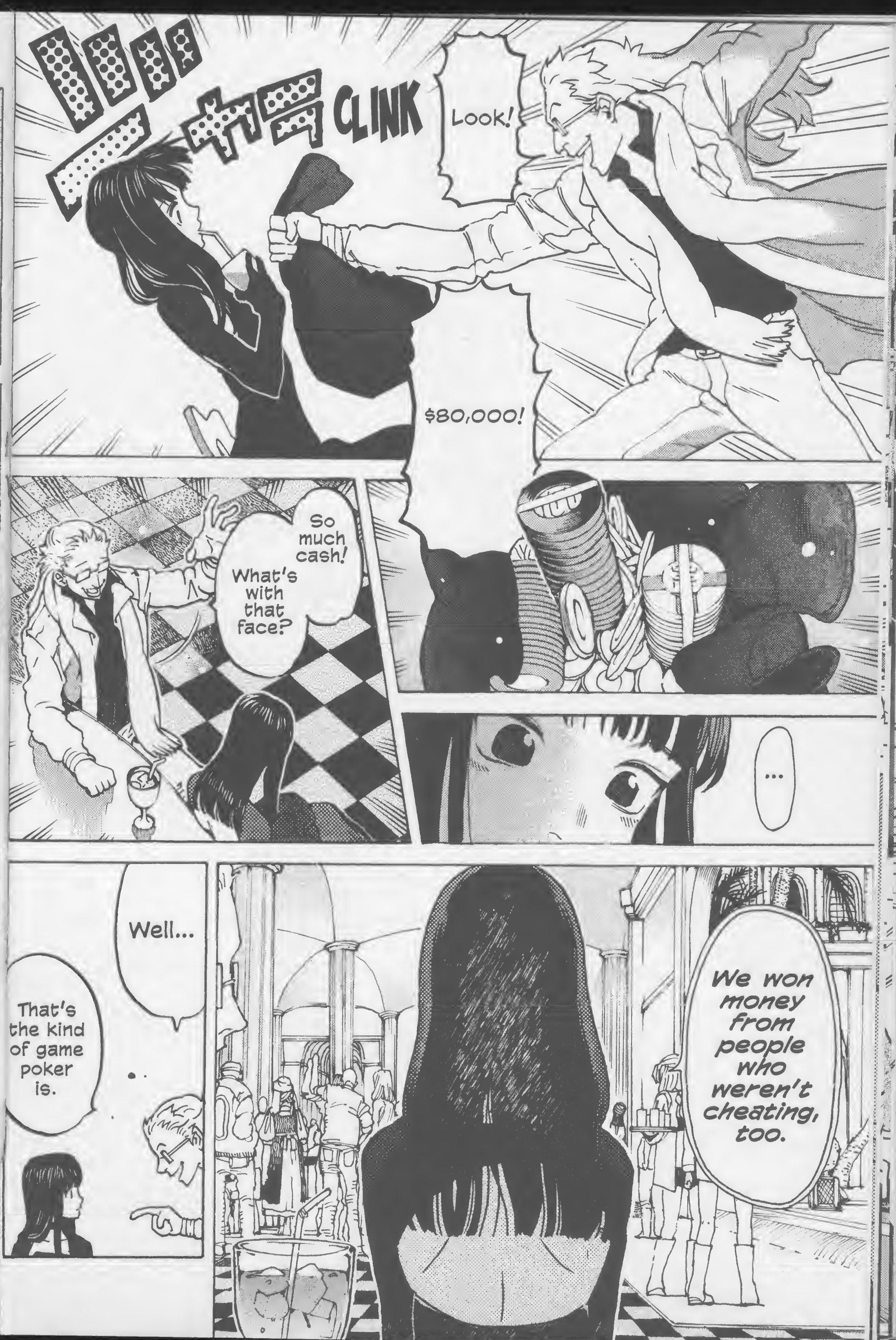

See ya.
I'm glad you had a nice time.
Yeah, it was fun!
Thanks!

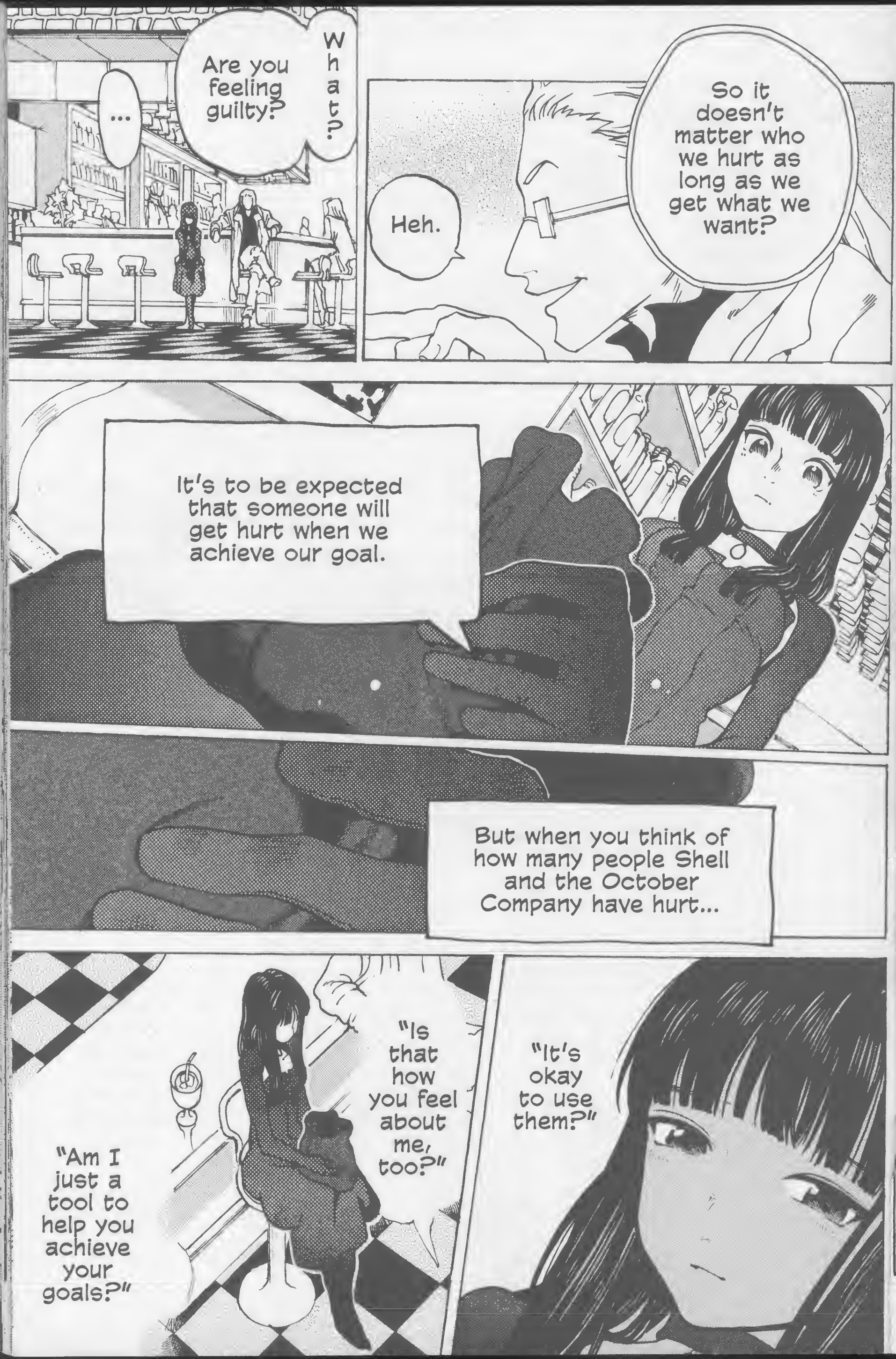

Why's the dealer so indignant?
CHATTER
CHATTER
He must be in on it.
CHATTER
ガタ
DASH
It's all over!
We won, so we're leaving.
Thanks for today.

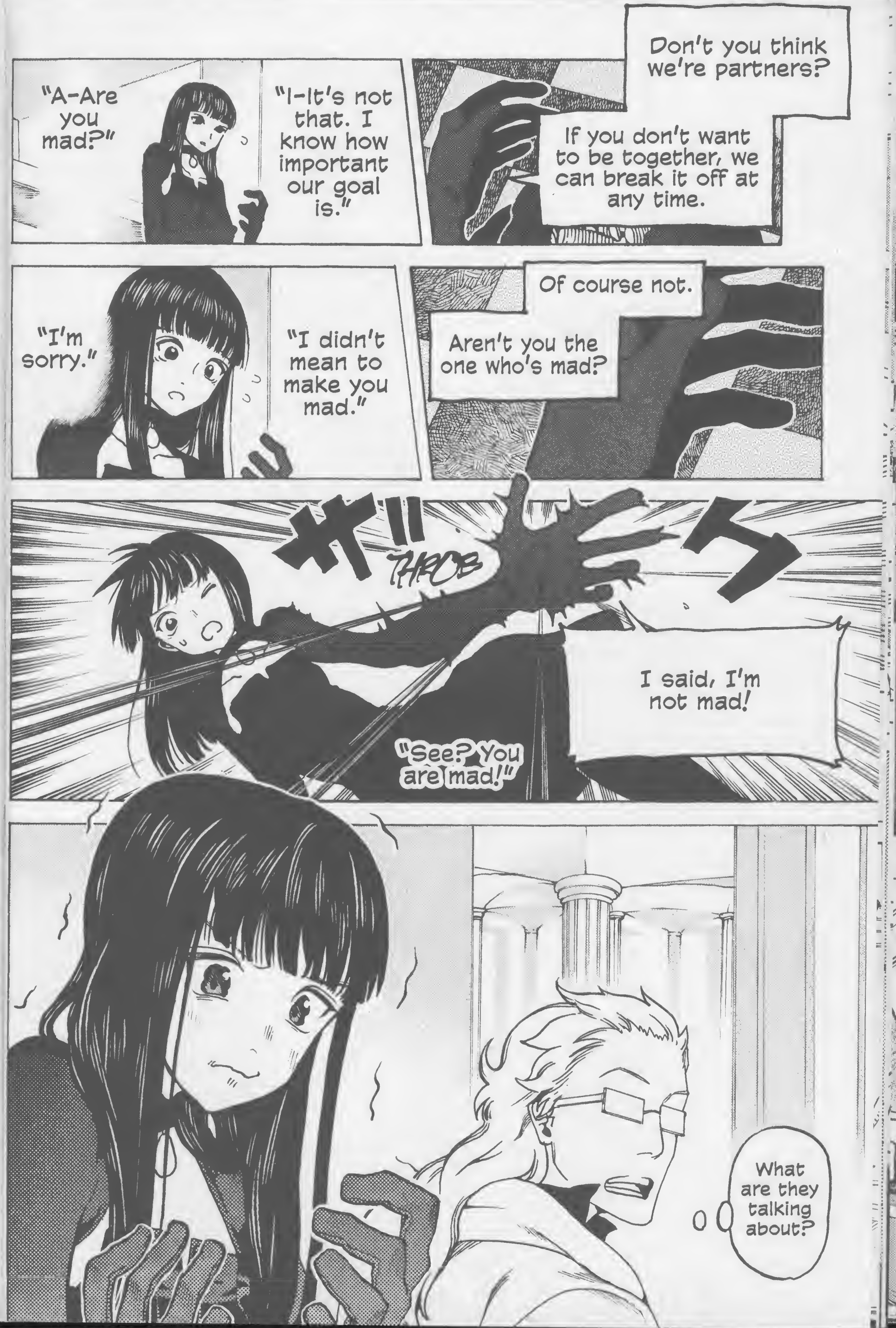

F-Fold...
...
I'm finished!
オォォォ
OOOOOHH
One chip left. What'll he do?
Sorry to keep you waiting.
I came to compact your chips.
MARDOCK SCRAMBLE

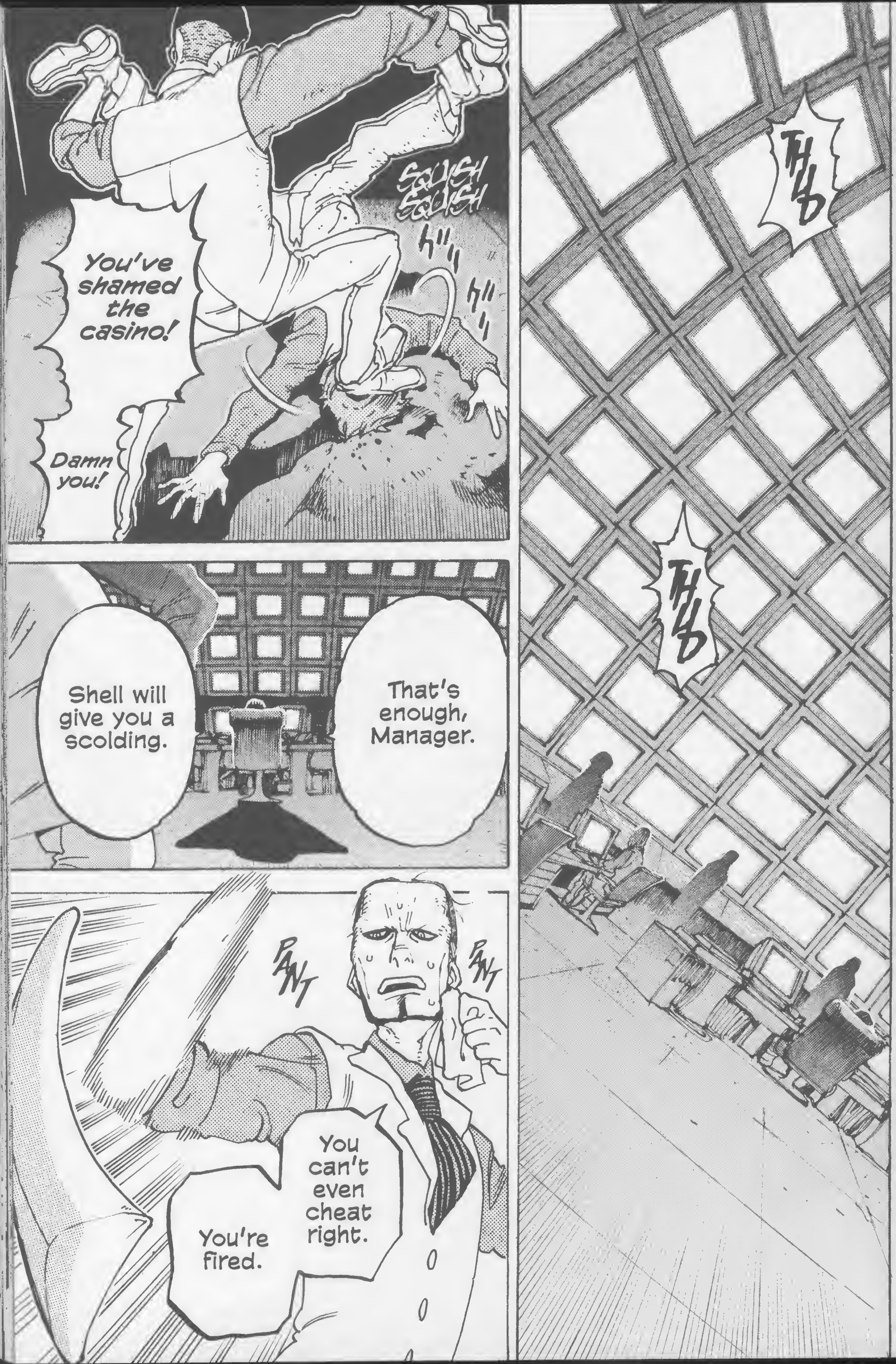
Chapter 18: Rotor (4)

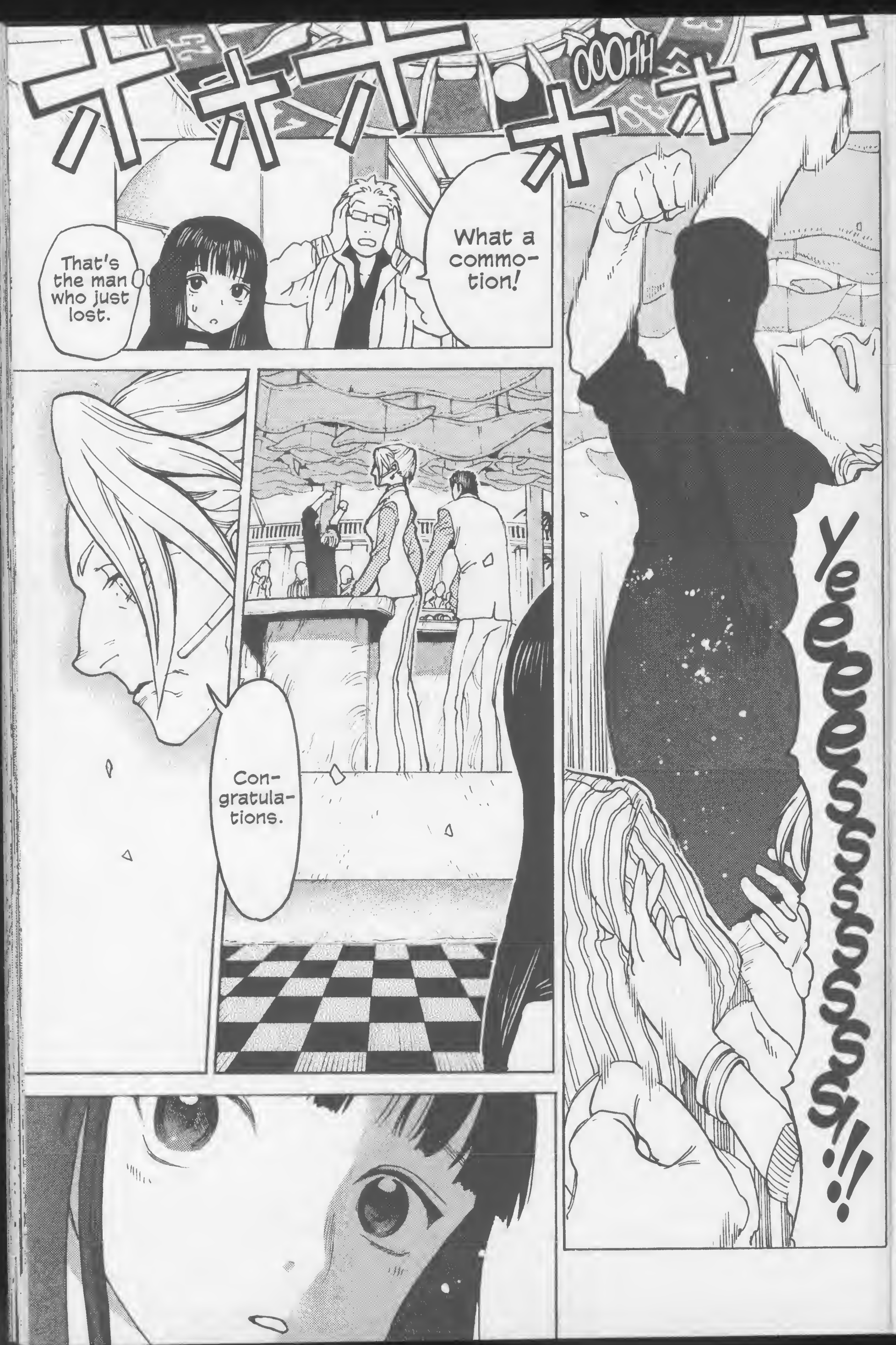
MARDOCK SCRAMBLE

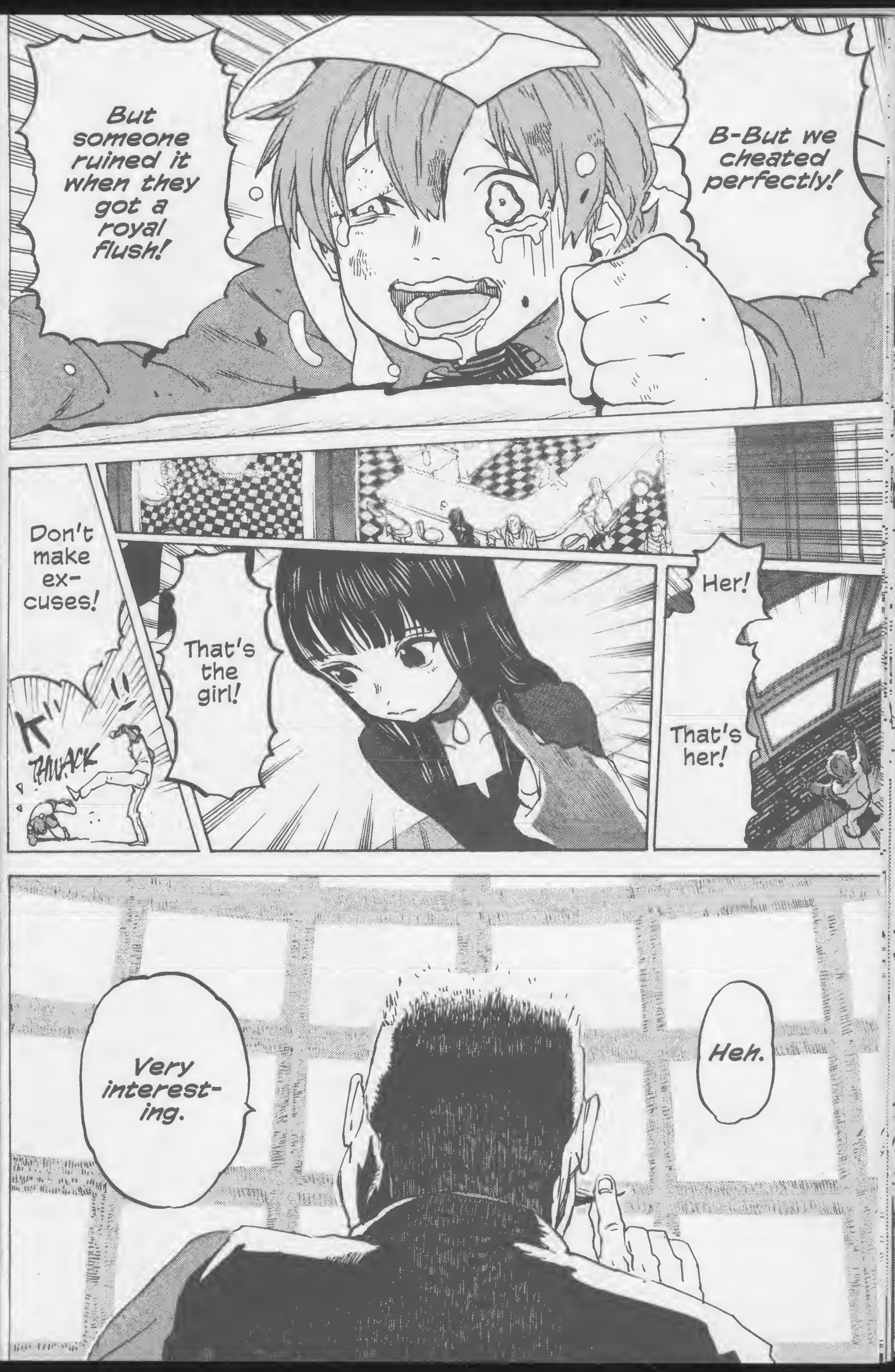

CLINK
Look!
$80,000!
So much cash!
What's with that face?
...
Well...
That's the kind of game poker is.
We won money from people who weren't cheating, too.

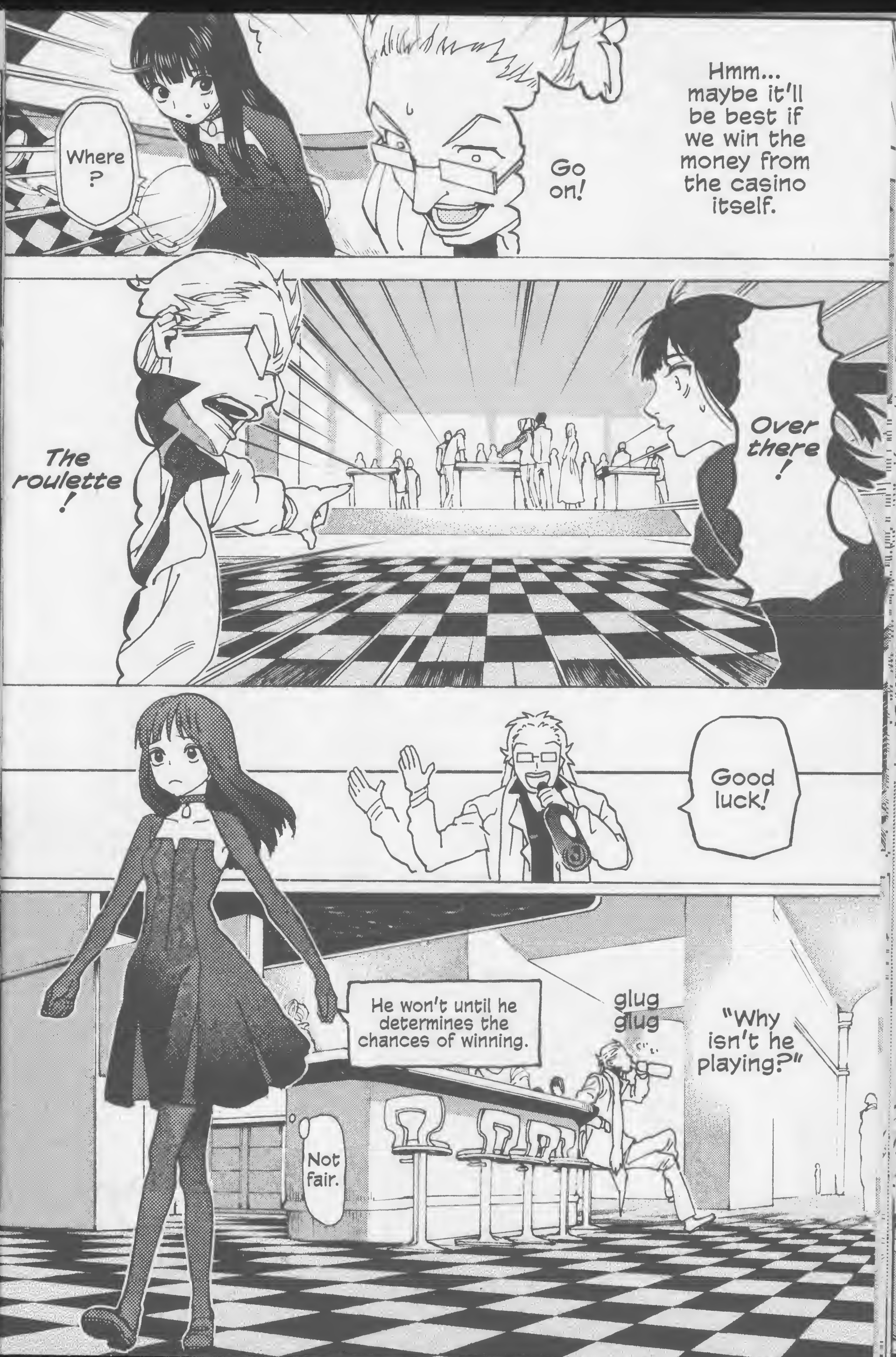

So it doesn't matter who we hurt as long as we get what we want?
Heh.
What?
Are you feeling guilty?
...
It's to be expected that someone will get hurt when we achieve our goal.
But when you think of how many people Shell and the October Company have hurt...
"It's okay to use them?"
"Is that how you feel about me, too?"
"Am I just a tool to help you achieve your goals?"

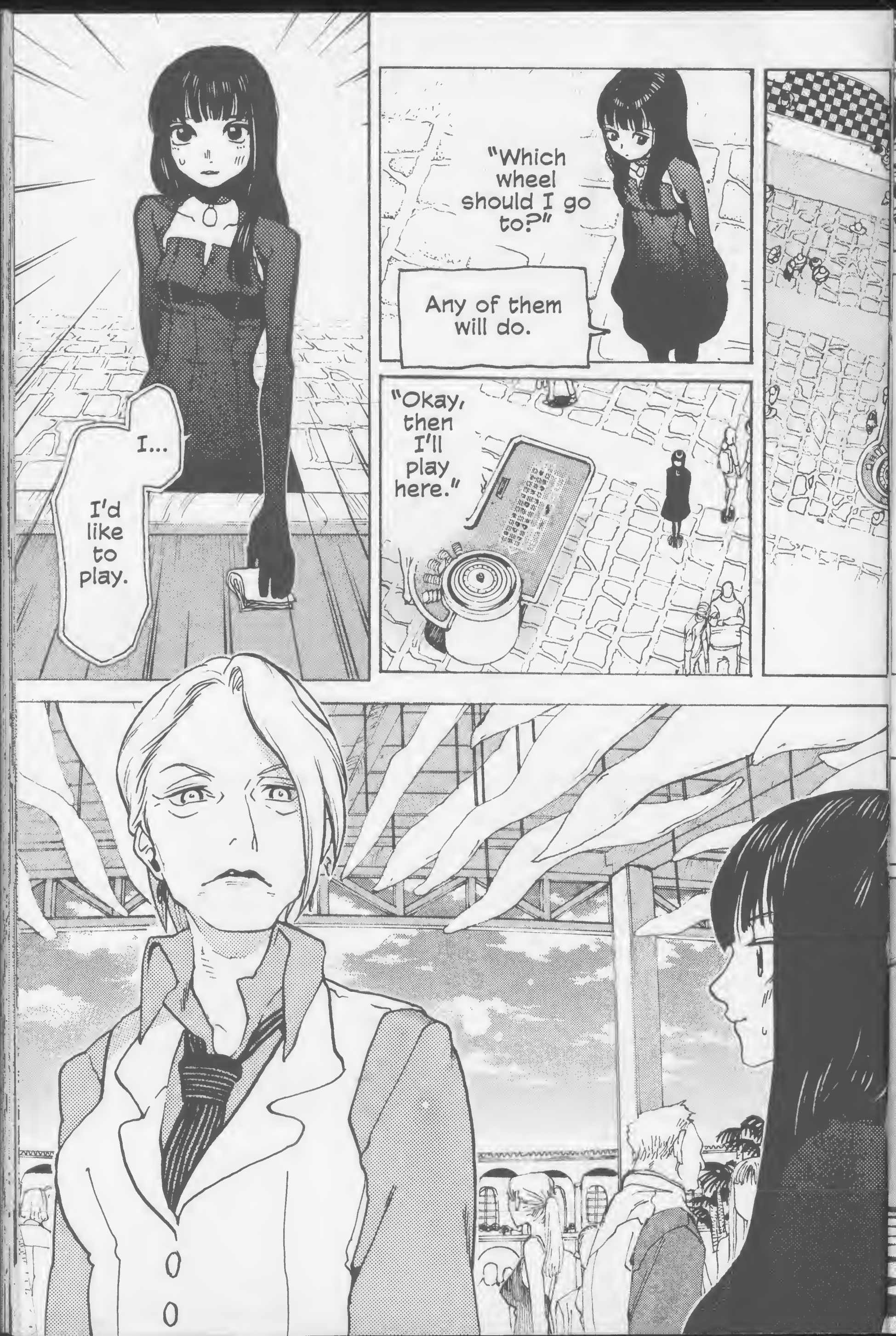

Don't you think we're partners?
If you don't want to be together, we can break it off at any time.
"I-It's not that. I know how important our goal is."
"A-Are you mad?"
Of course not.
Aren't you the one who's mad?
"I didn't mean to make you mad."
"I'm sorry."
THROB
I said, I'm not mad!
"See? You are mad!"
What are they talking about?

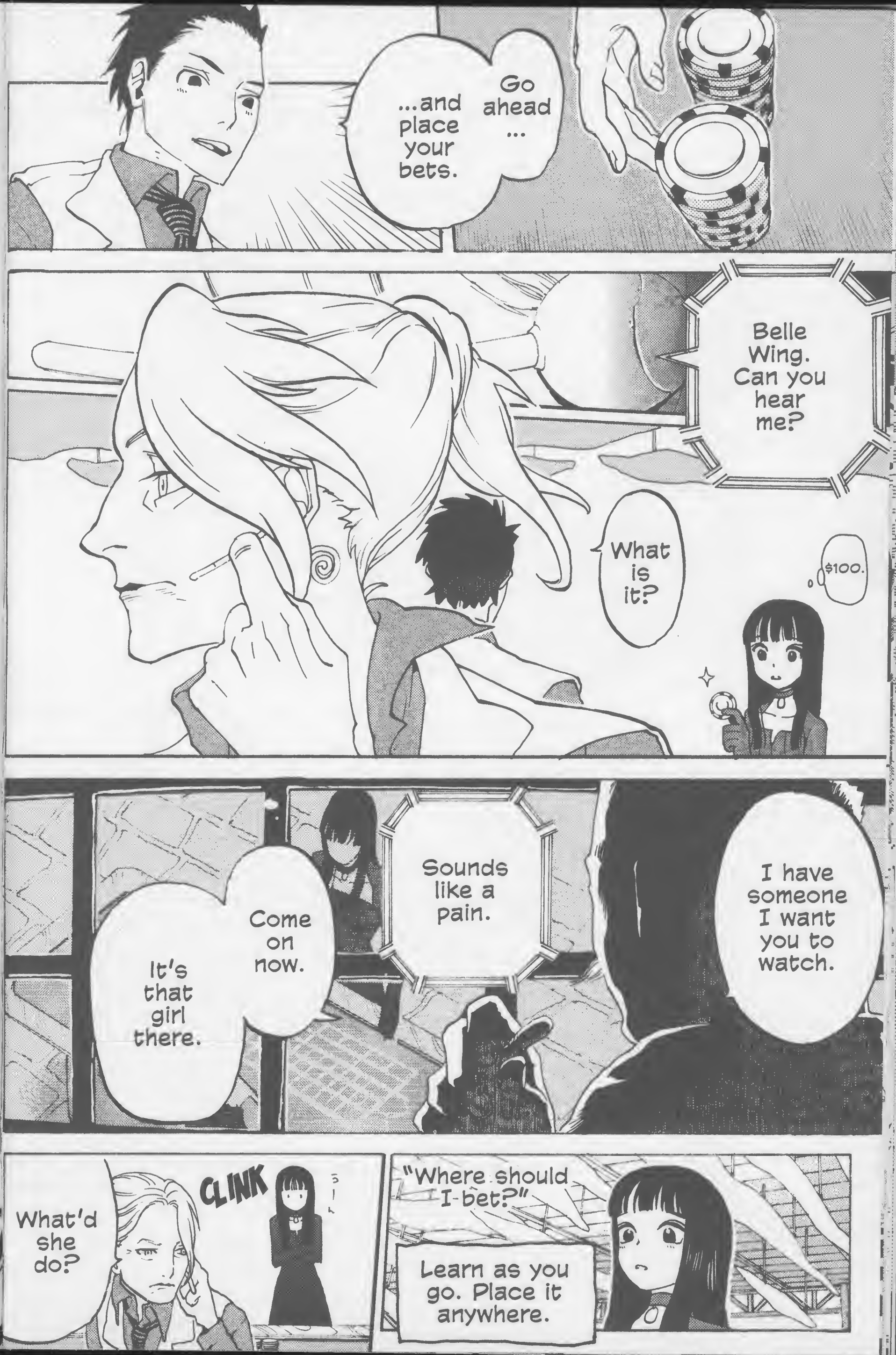

THUD
THUD
SQUISH SQUISH
You've shamed the casino!
Damn you!
That's enough, Manager.
Shell will give you a scolding.
PANT
PANT
You can't even cheat right.
You're fired.

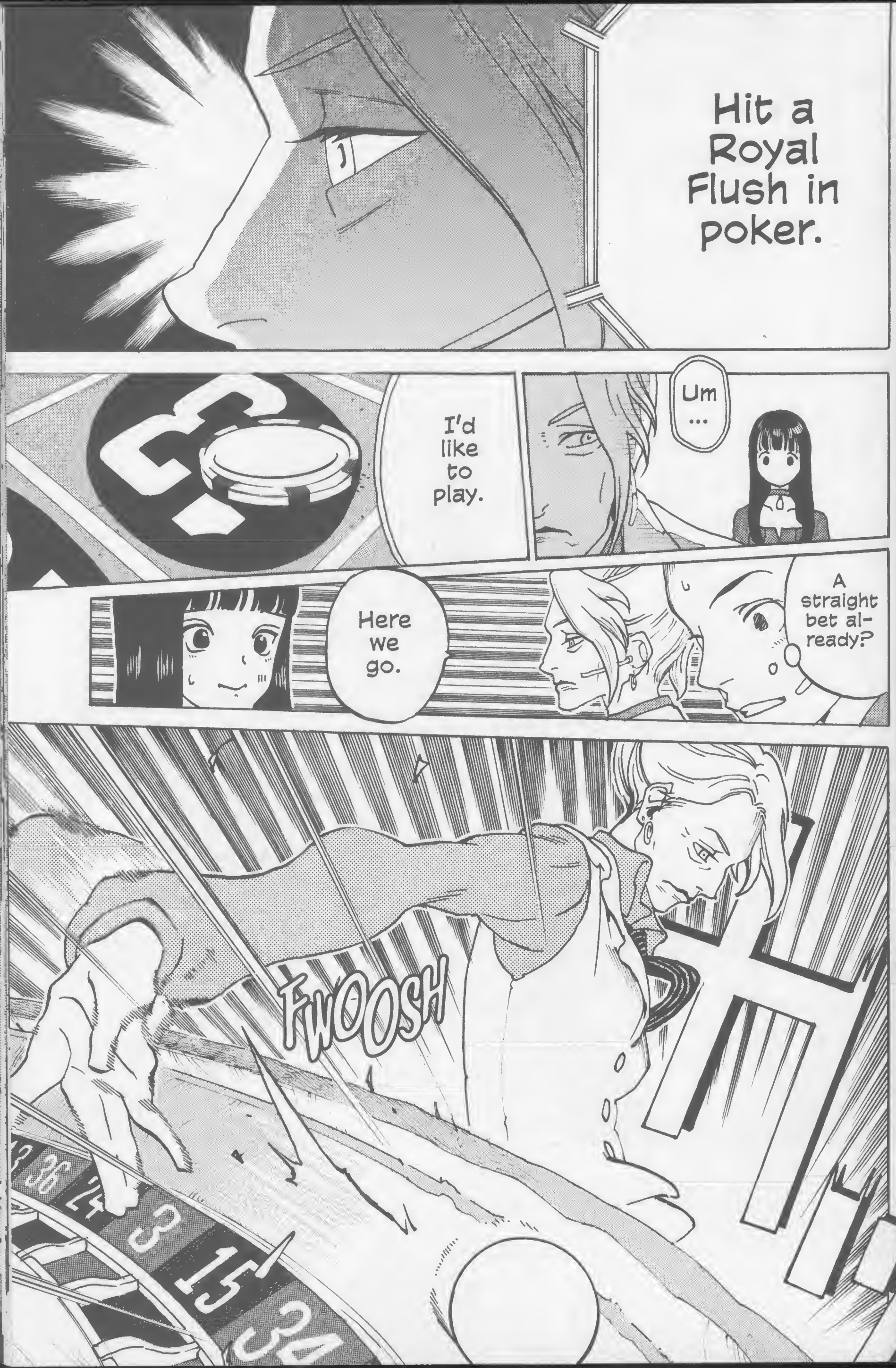

オォォー・オォォ
OOOHH
What a commotion!
That's the man who just lost.
Yeeeeeesssssss!!!
Congratulations.

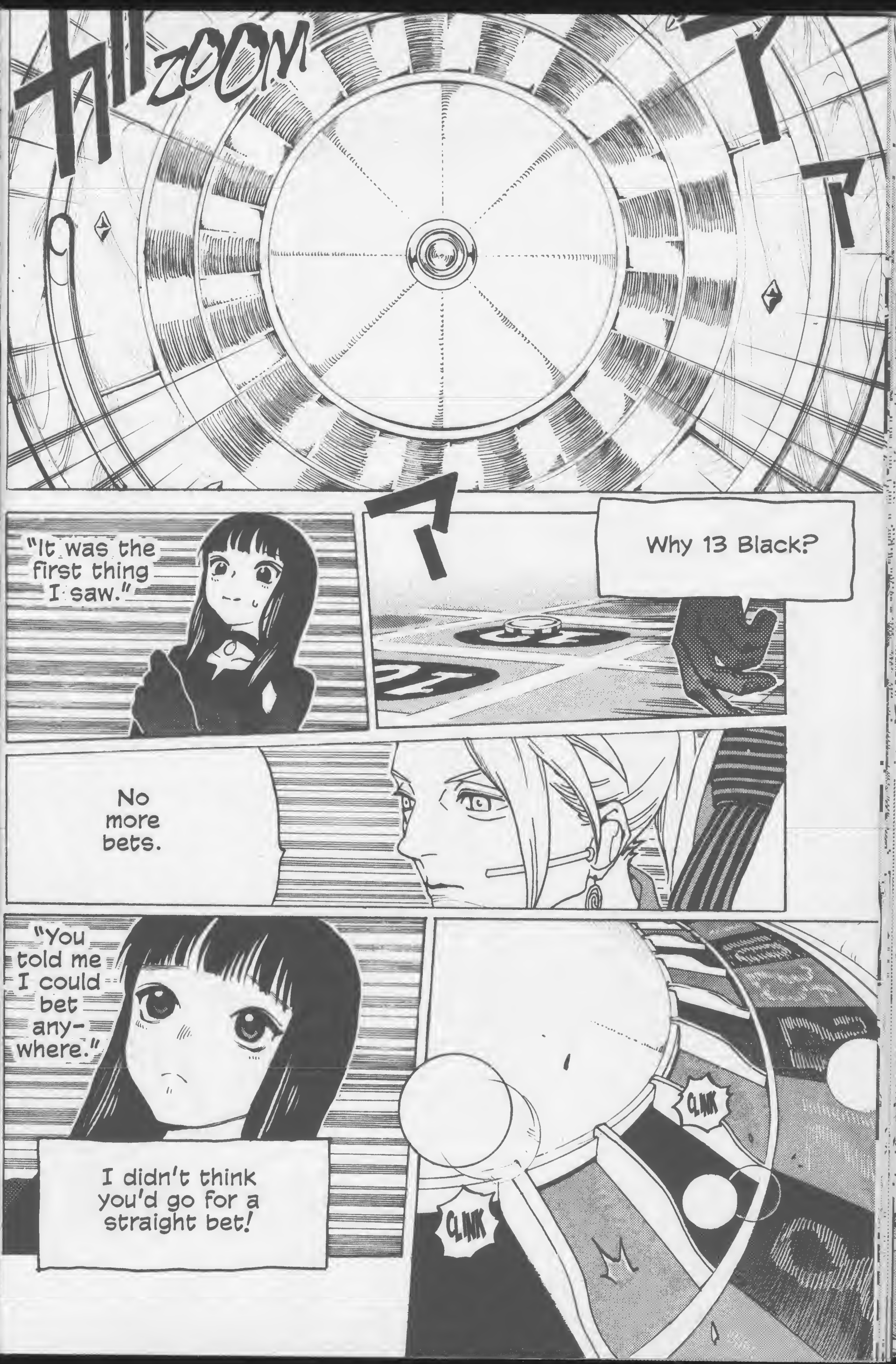

B-But we cheated perfectly!
But someone ruined it when they got a royal flush!
Her!
That's her!
Don't make excuses!
That's the girl!
THWACK
Heh.
Very interesting.

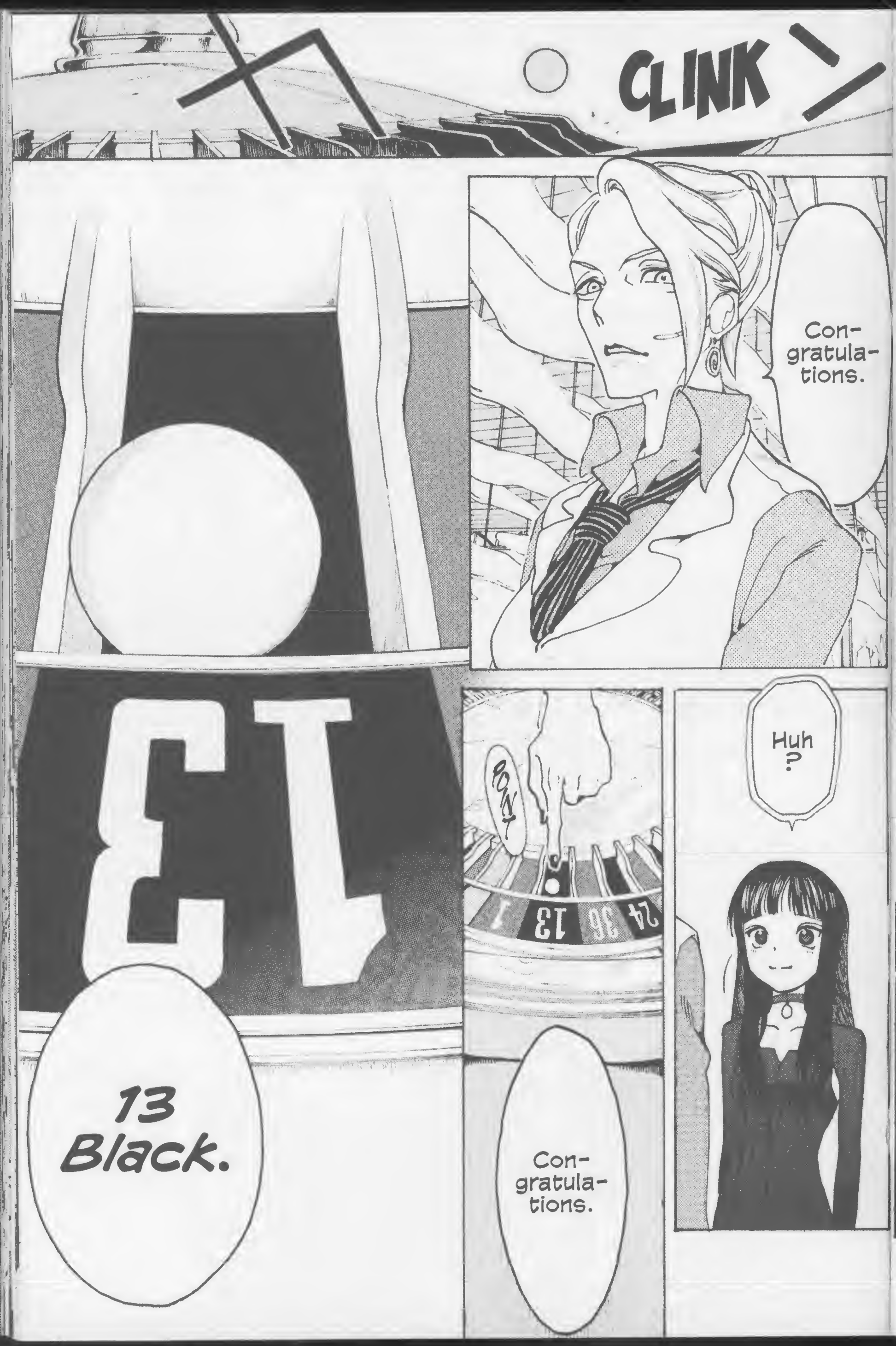

Hmm... maybe it'll be best if we win the money from the casino itself.
Go on!
Where?
Over there!
The roulette!
Good luck!
"Why isn't he playing?"
glug glug
He won't until he determines the chances of winning.
Not fair.

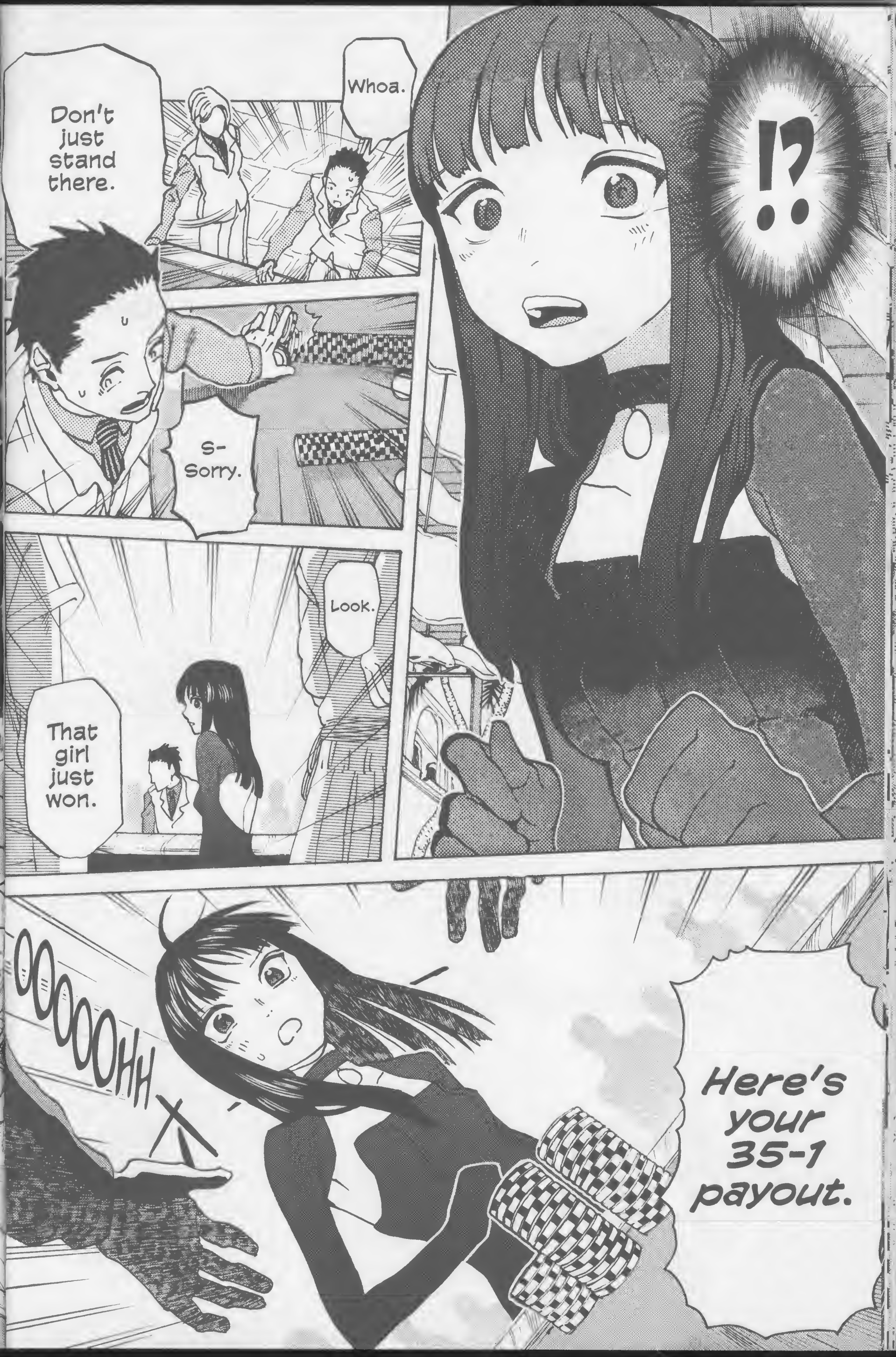

"Which wheel should I go to?"
Any of them will do.
"Okay, then I'll play here."
I...
I'd like to play.

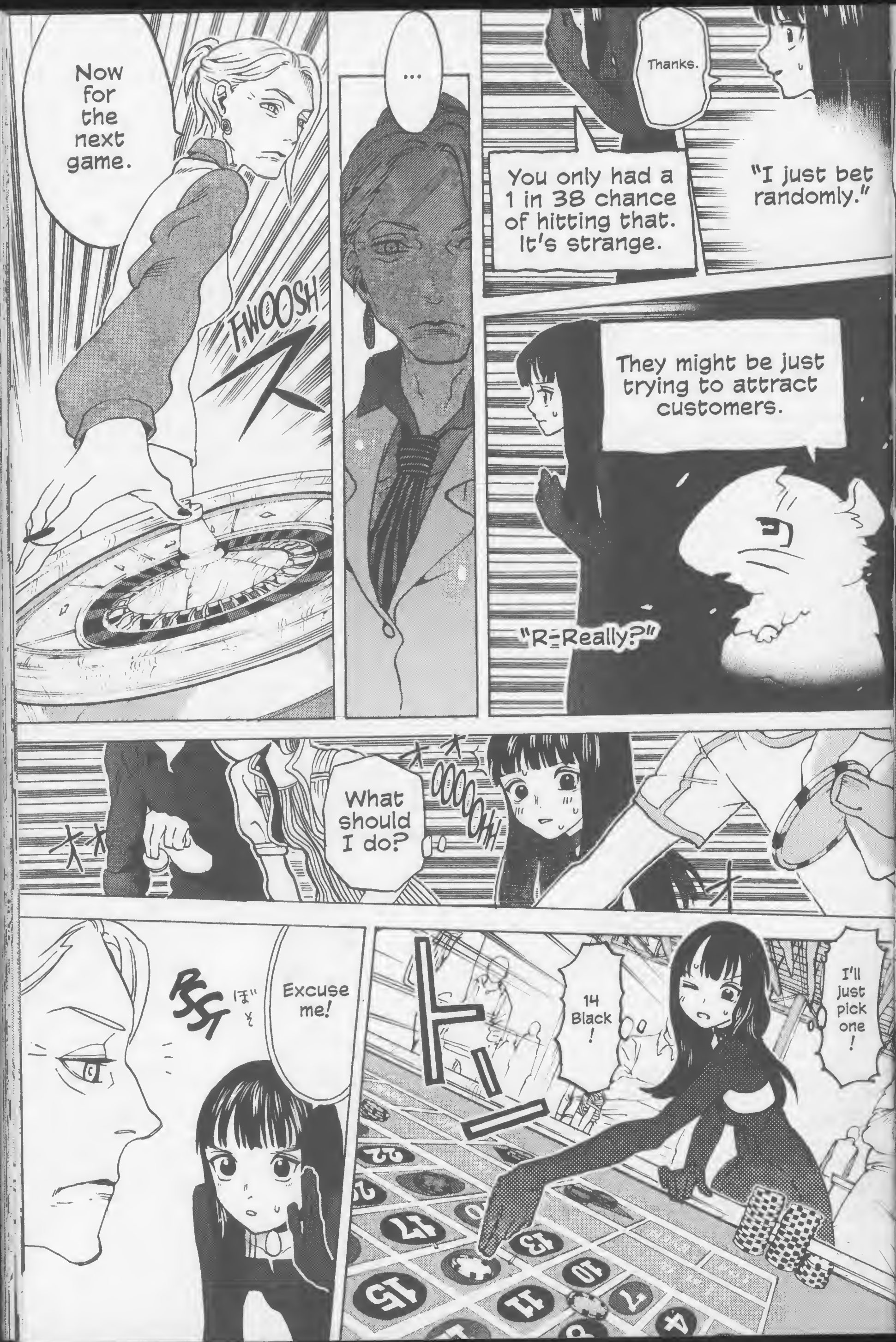

Go ahead ...
...and place your bets.
Belle Wing. Can you hear me?
What is it?
$100.
I have someone I want you to watch.
Sounds like a pain.
Come on now.
It's that girl there.
"Where should I bet?"
Learn as you go. Place it anywhere.
CLINK
What'd she do?

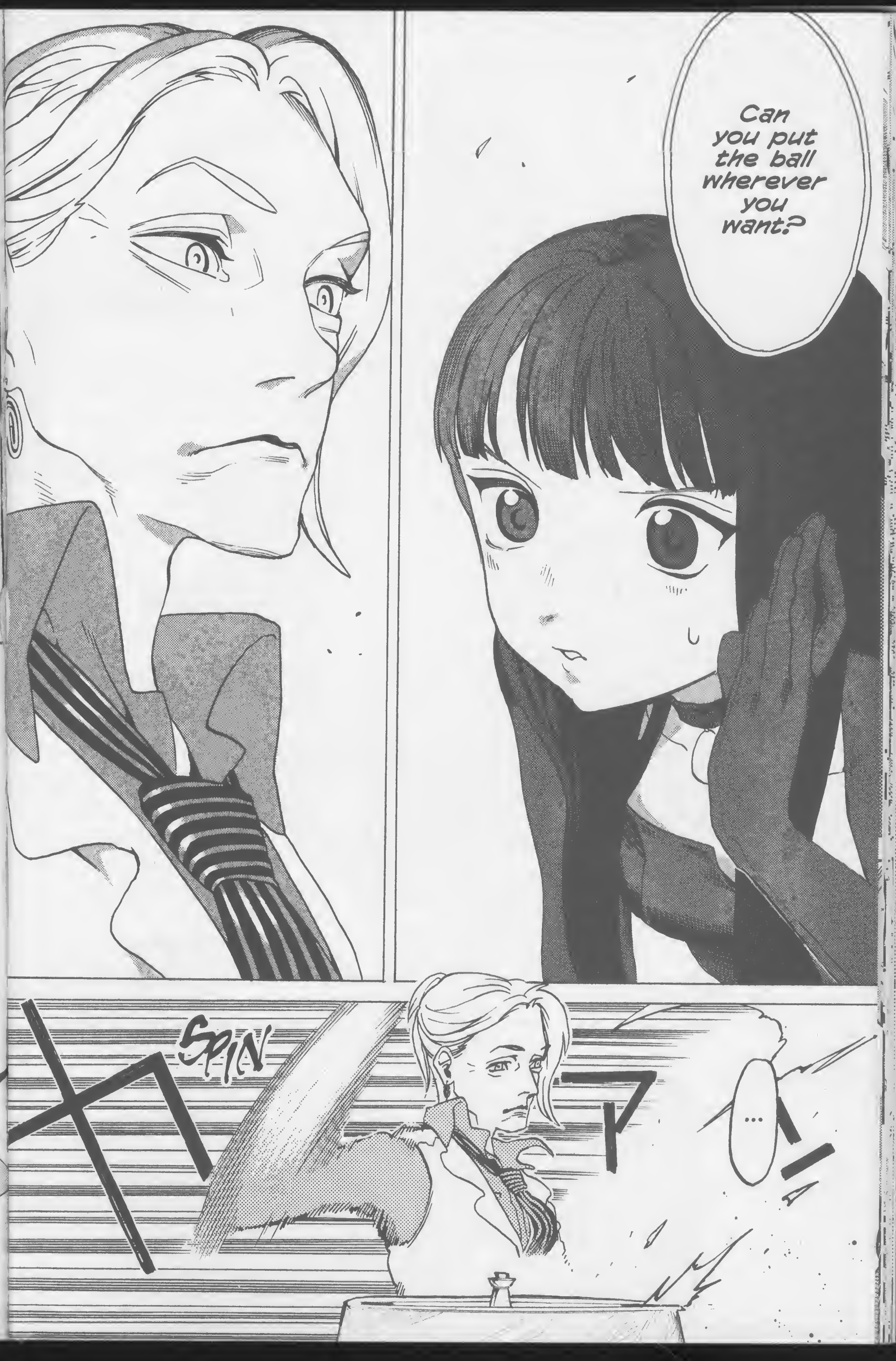

Hit a Royal Flush in poker.
Um ...
I'd like to play.
A straight bet al-ready?
Here we go.
FWOOSH
36
24
3
15
34

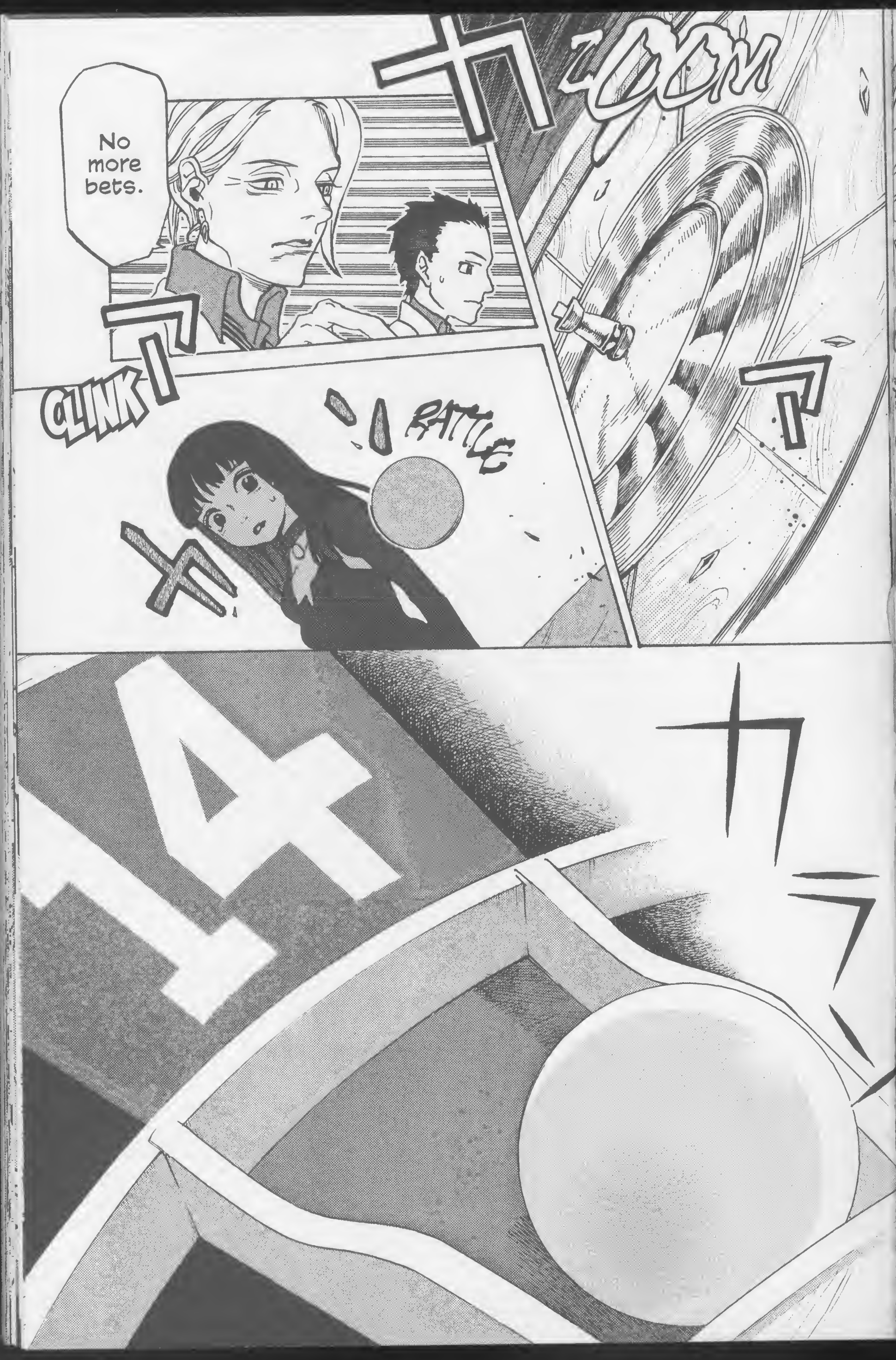

ZOOM
Why 13 Black?
"It was the first thing I saw."
No more bets.
"You told me I could bet anywhere."
I didn't think you'd go for a straight bet!
CLINK
CLINK

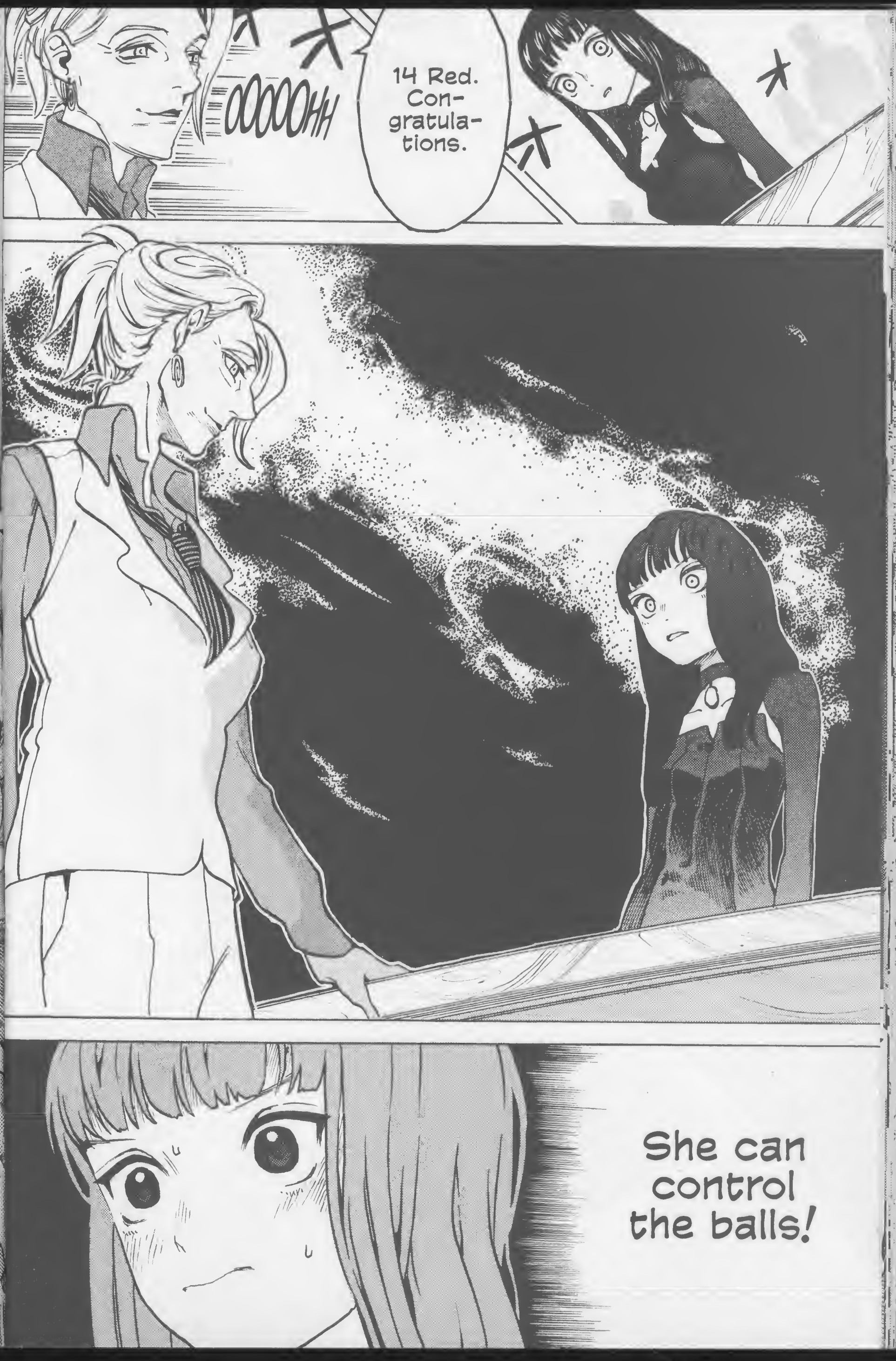

CLINK
Congratulations.
13 Black.
POINT
Congratulations.
Huh?

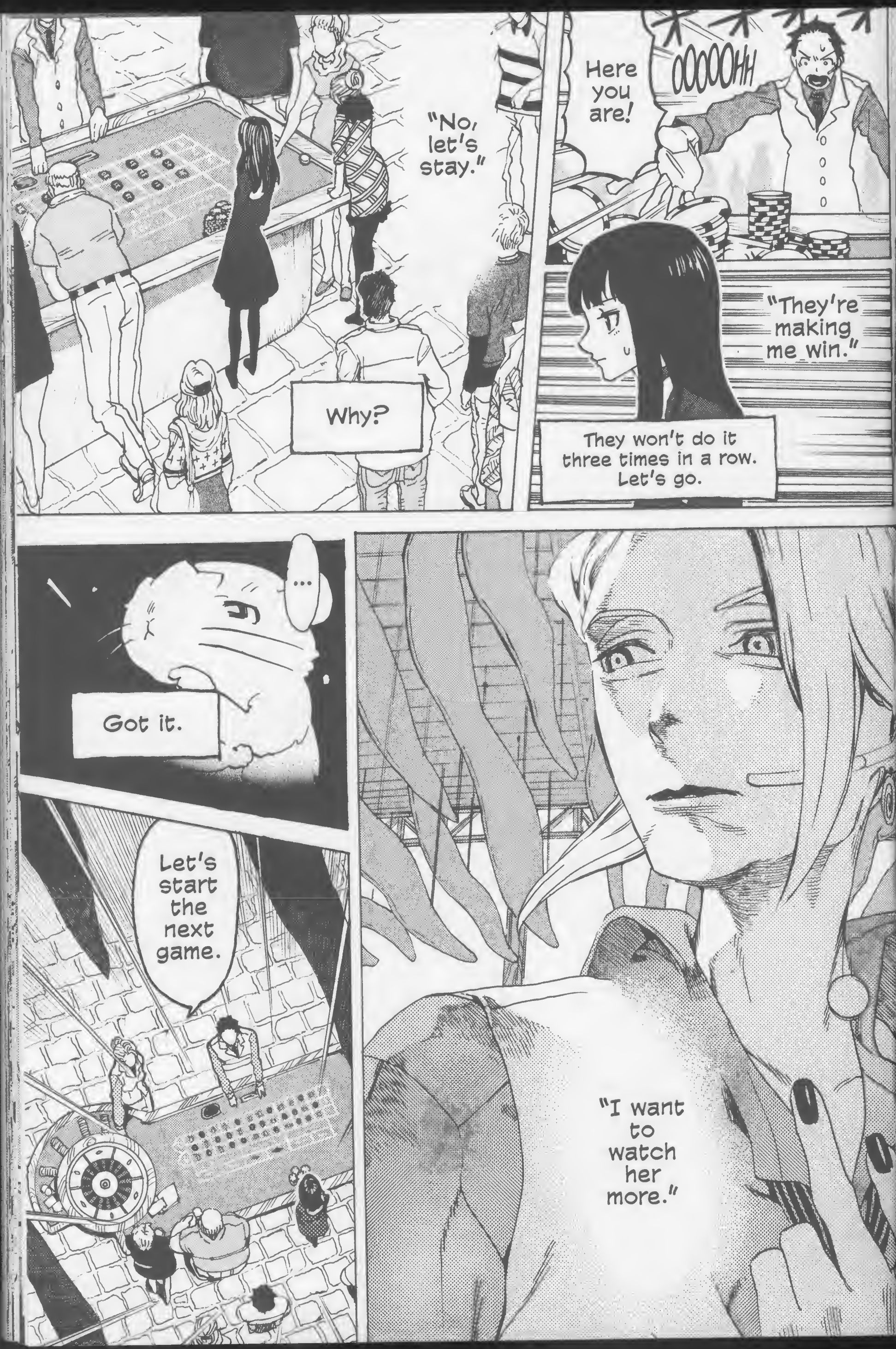

!?
Whoa.
Don't just stand there.
S-Sorry.
Look.
That girl just won.
OOOOOHH
Here's your 35-1 payout.

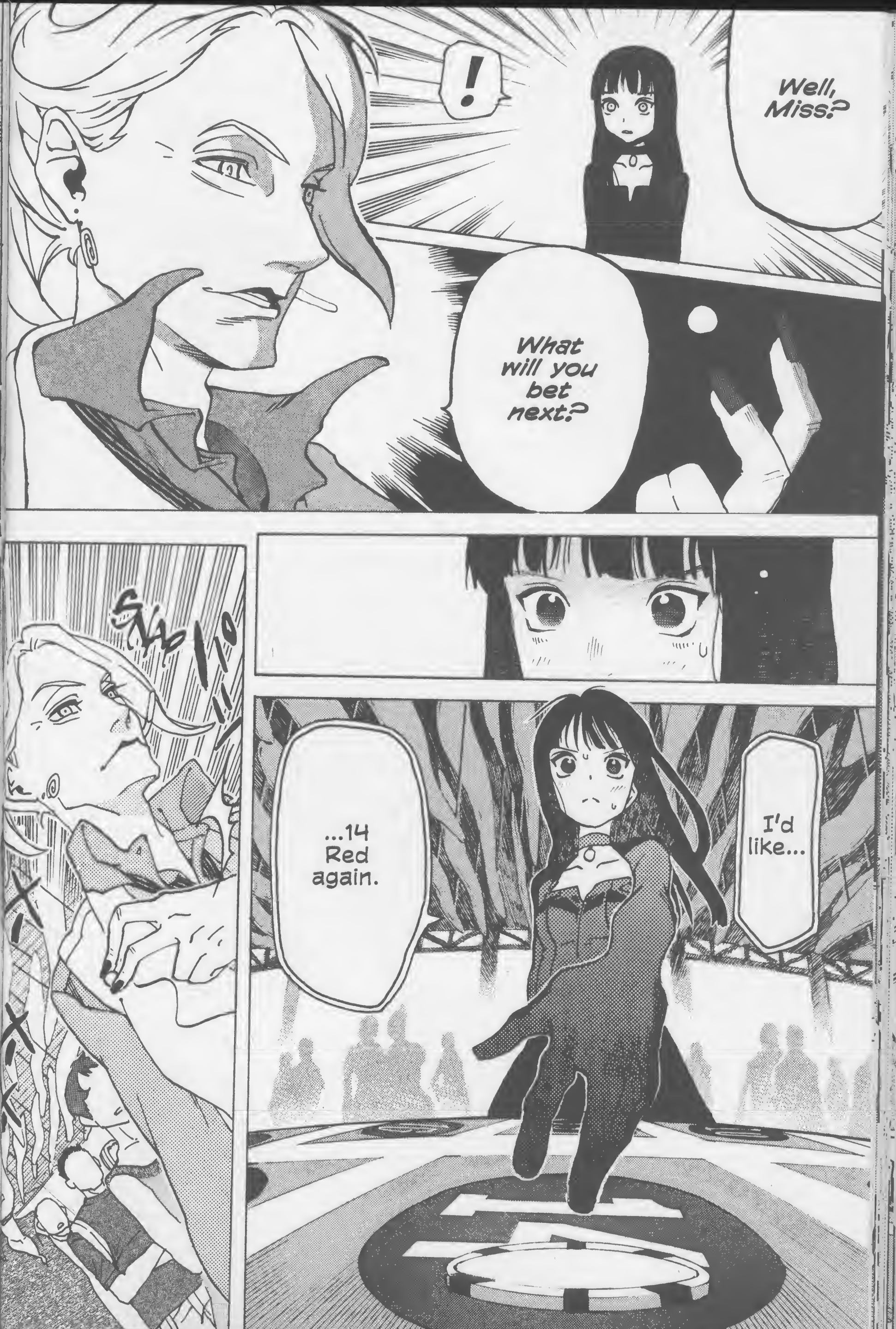

Thanks.
You only had a 1 in 38 chance of hitting that. It's strange.
"I just bet randomly."
They might be just trying to attract customers.
"R-Really?"
...
Now for the next game.
FWOOSH
OOOOOHH
What should I do?
I'll just pick one!
14 Black!
Excuse me!
PSST

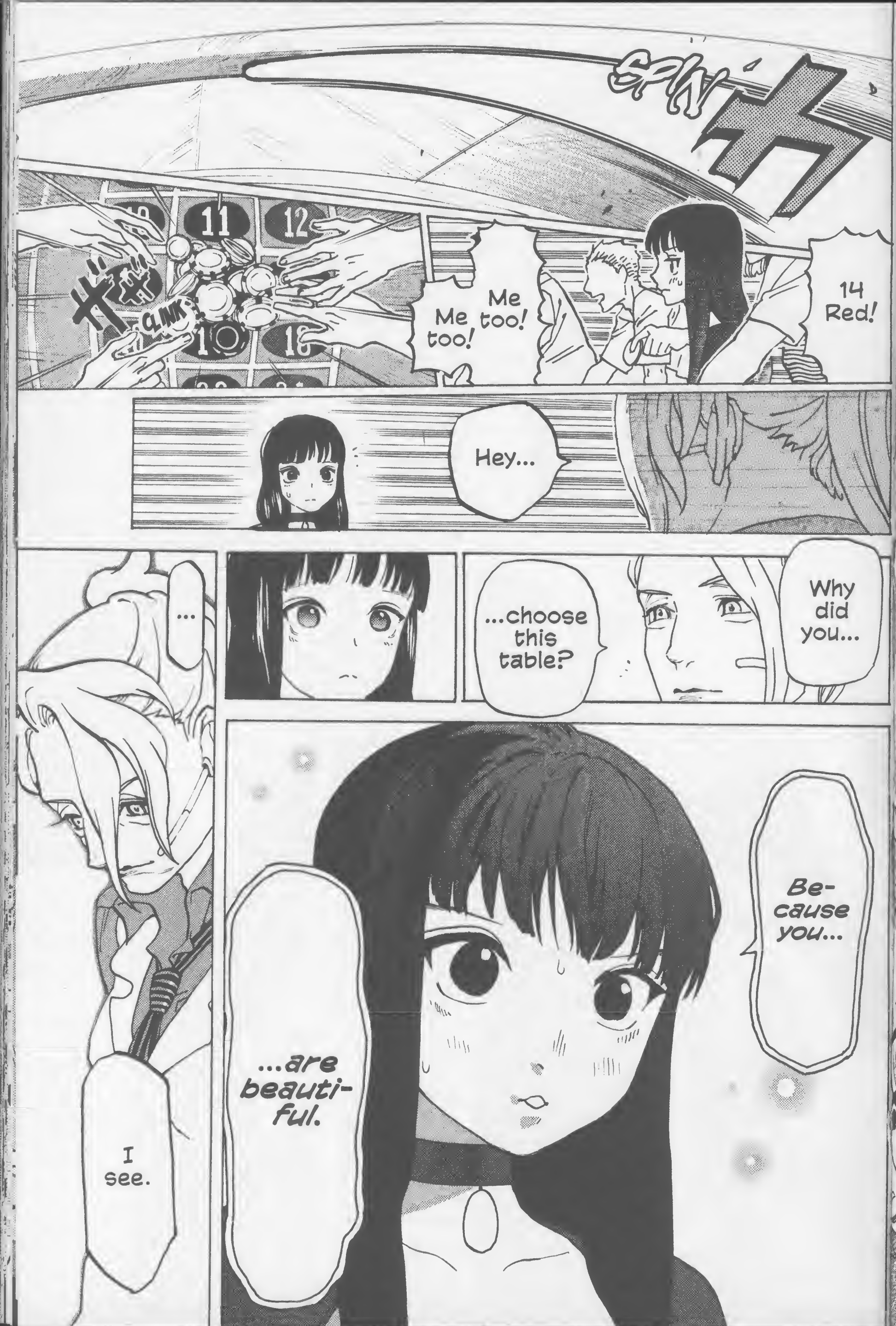

Can you put the ball wherever you want?
...
SPIN

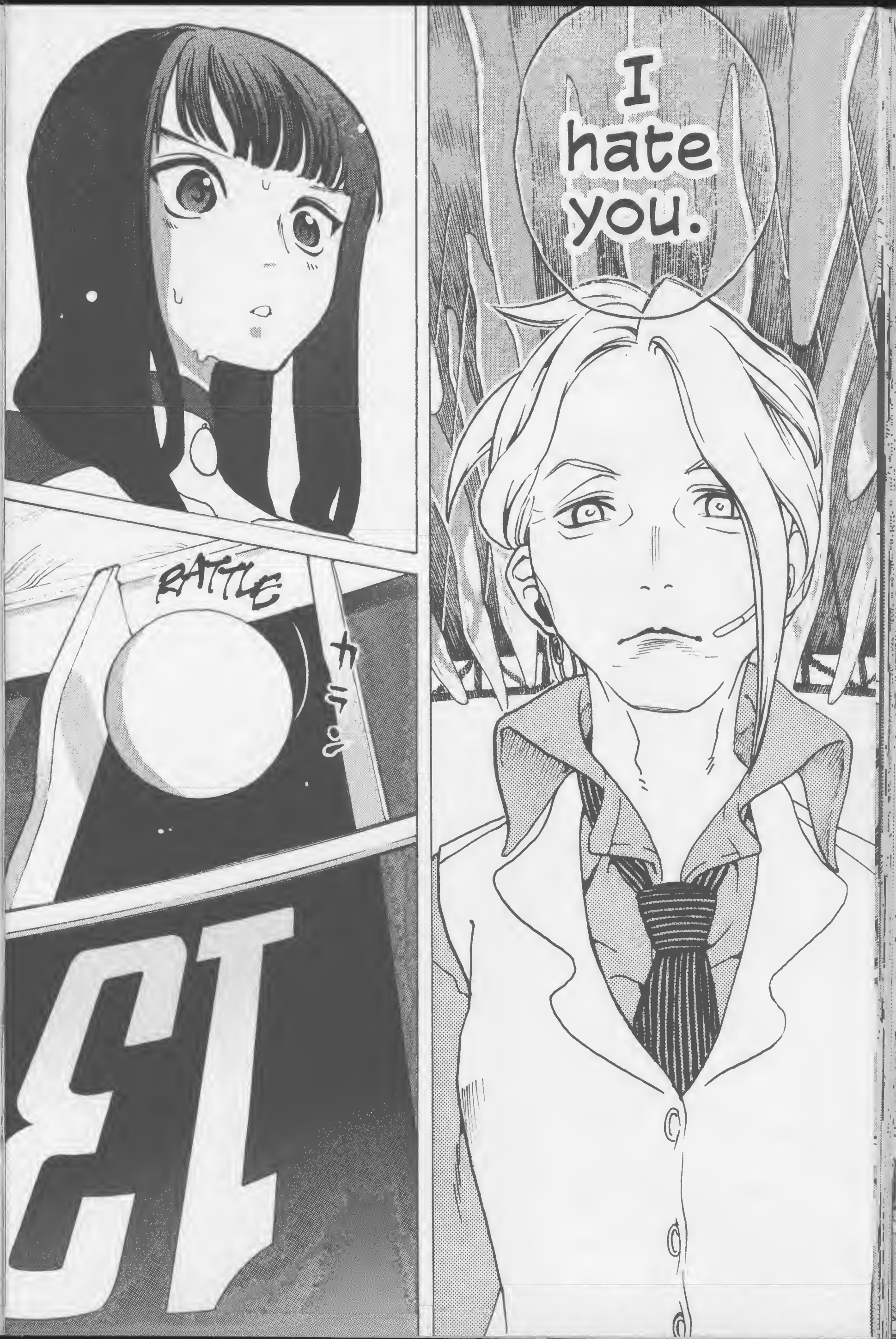

ZOOM
No more bets.
CLINK
RATTLE
14

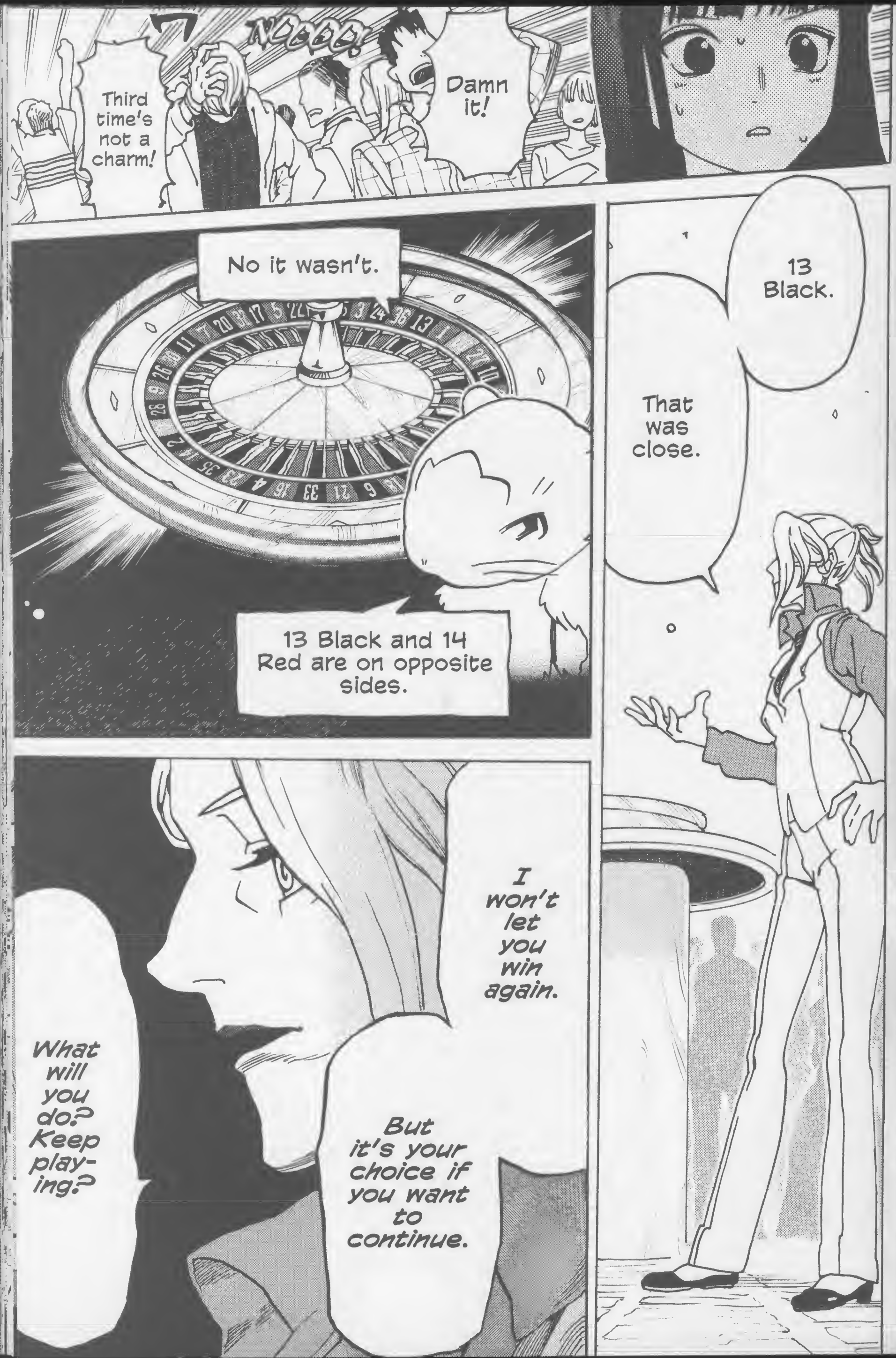

OOOOOHH
14 Red. Congratulations.
She can control the balls!

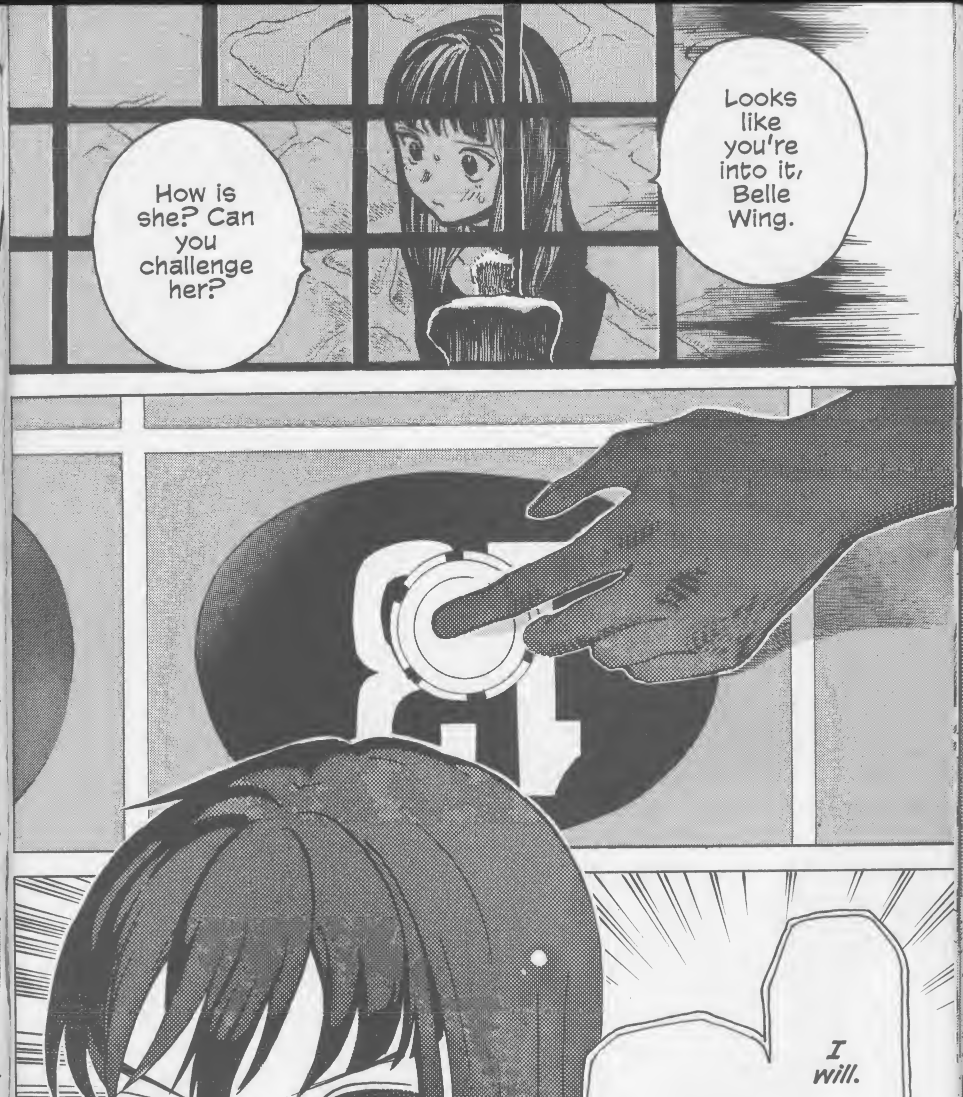

OOOOOHH
Here you are!
"They're making me win."
They won't do it three times in a row. Let's go.
"No, let's stay."
Why?
"I want to watch her more."
...
Got it.
Let's start the next game.

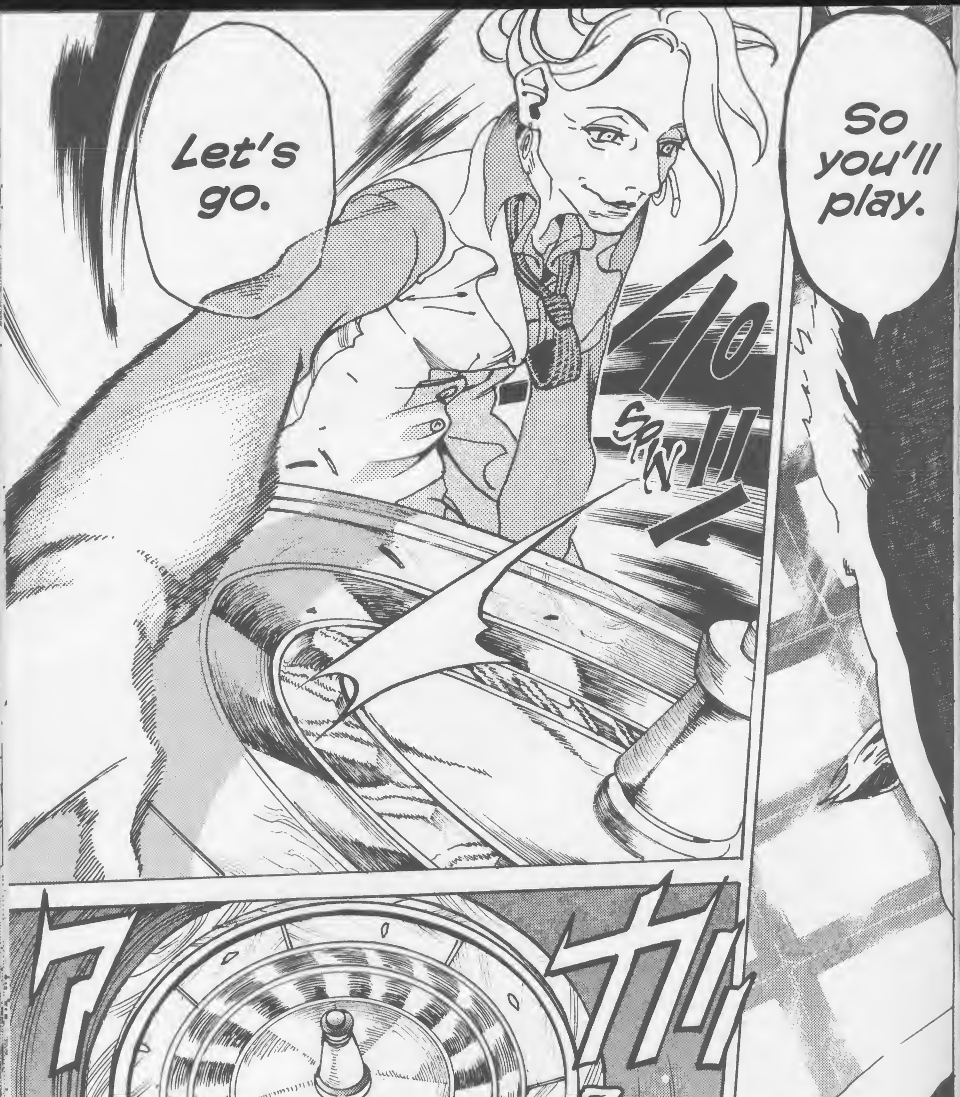

Well, Miss?
!
What will you bet next?
SNAP
I'd like...
...14 Red again.

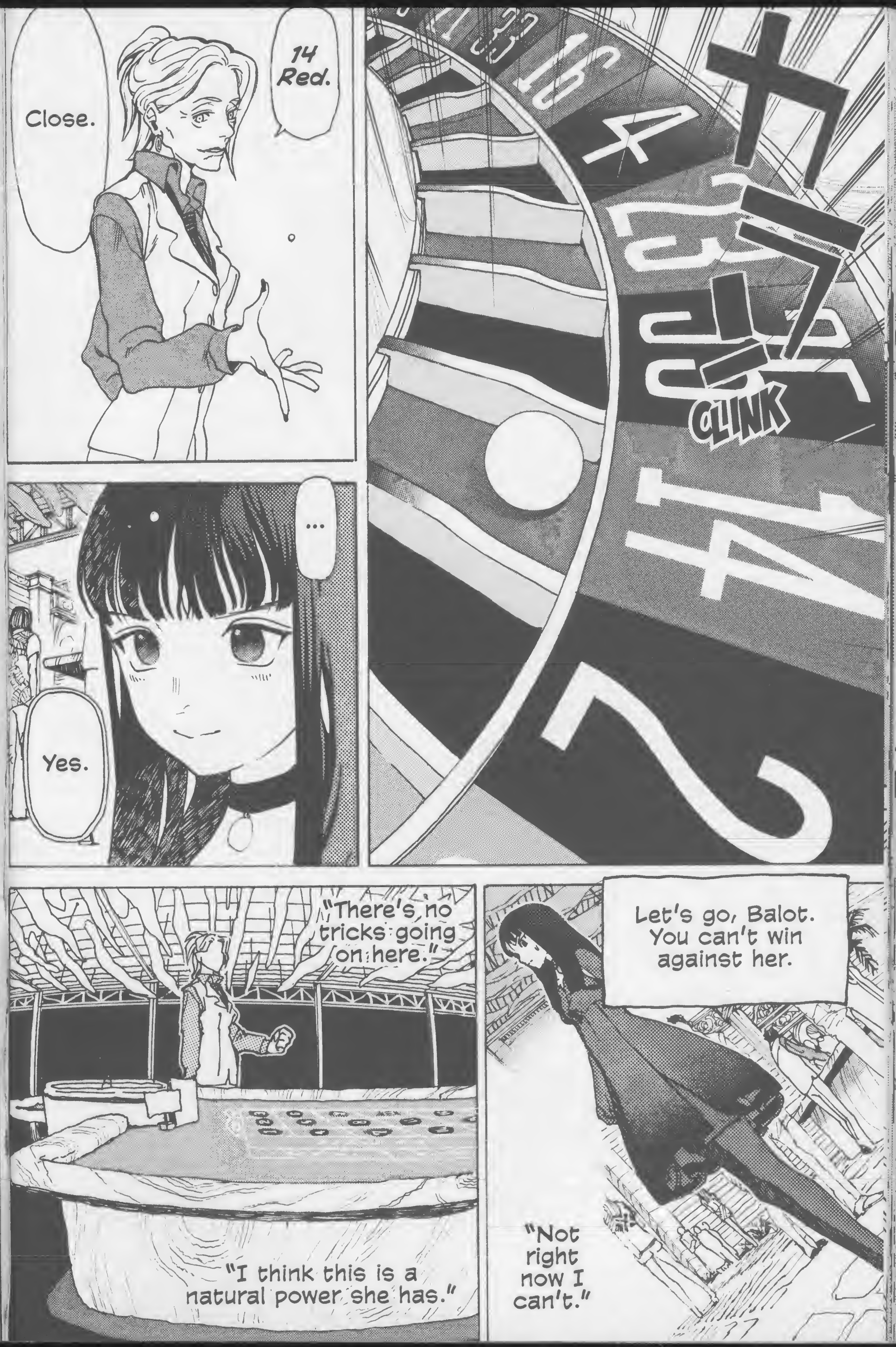

SPIN
14 Red!
Me too!
Me too!
CLINK
Hey...
Why did you...
...choose this table?
...
Be- cause you...
...are beauti- ful.
I see.

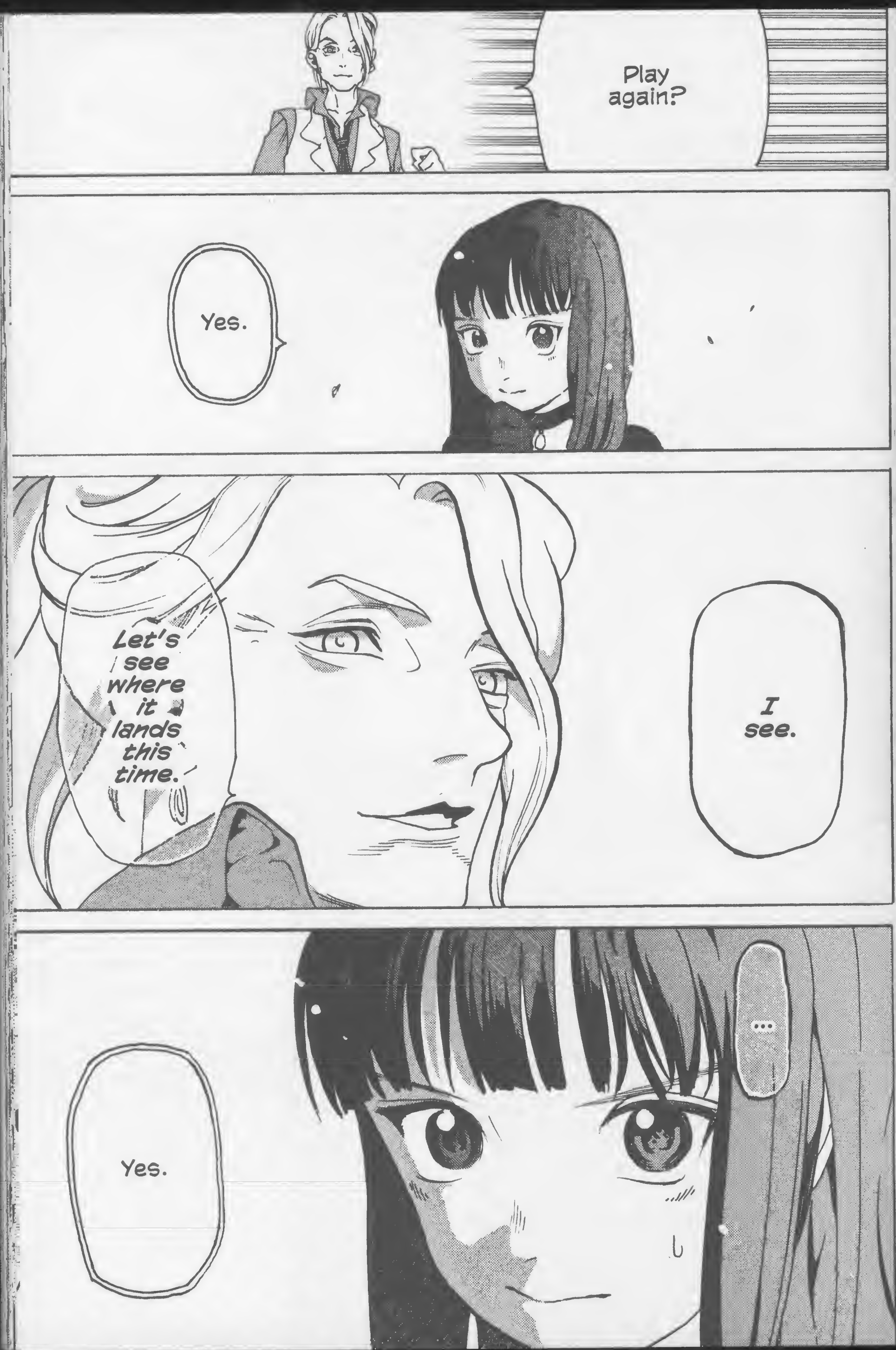

I hate you.
RATTLE
カラ…

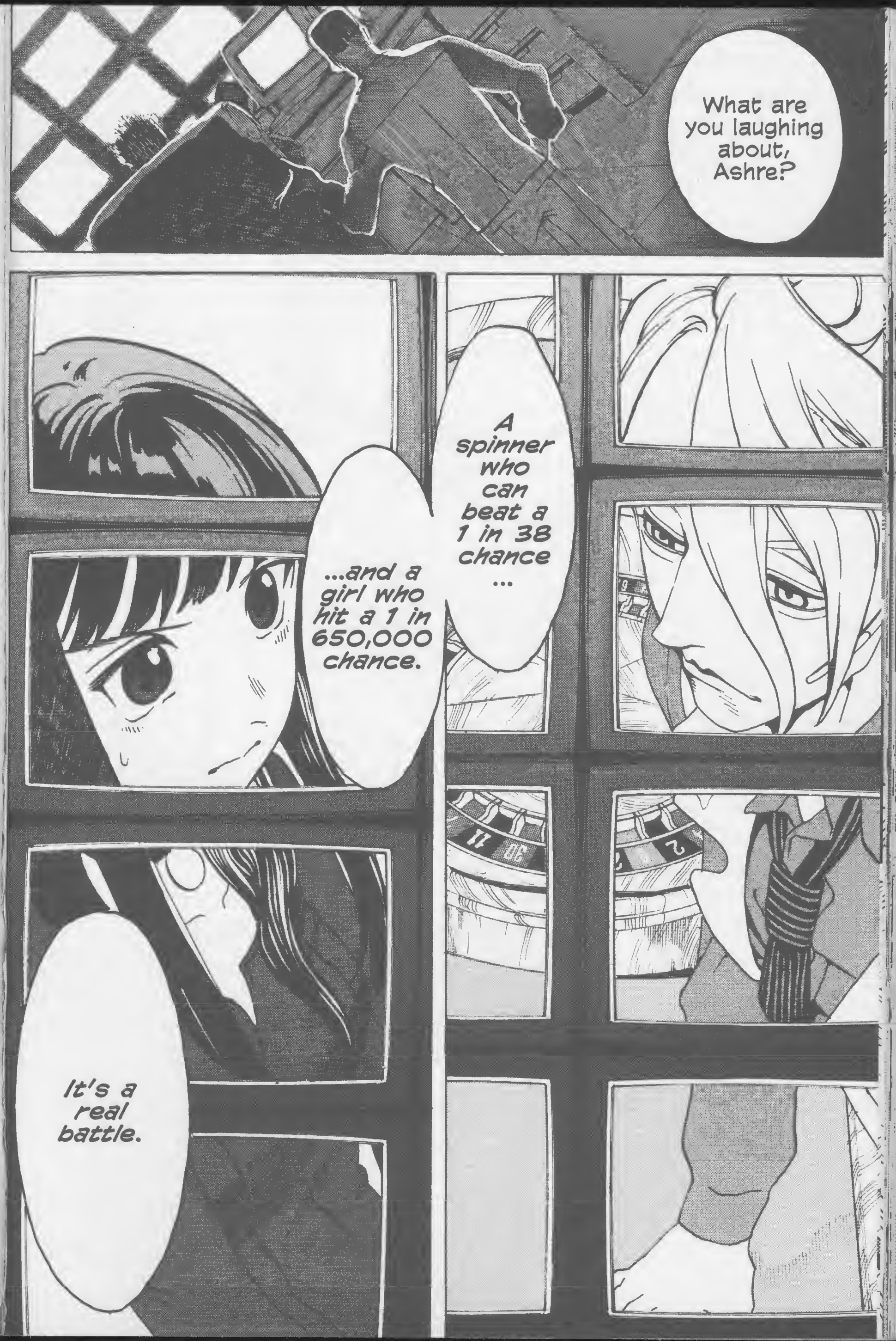

NOOOO!
Damn it!
Third time's not a charm!
13 Black.
That was close.
No it wasn't.
13 Black and 14 Red are on opposite sides.
I won't let you win again.
But it's your choice if you want to continue.
What will you do? Keep playing?

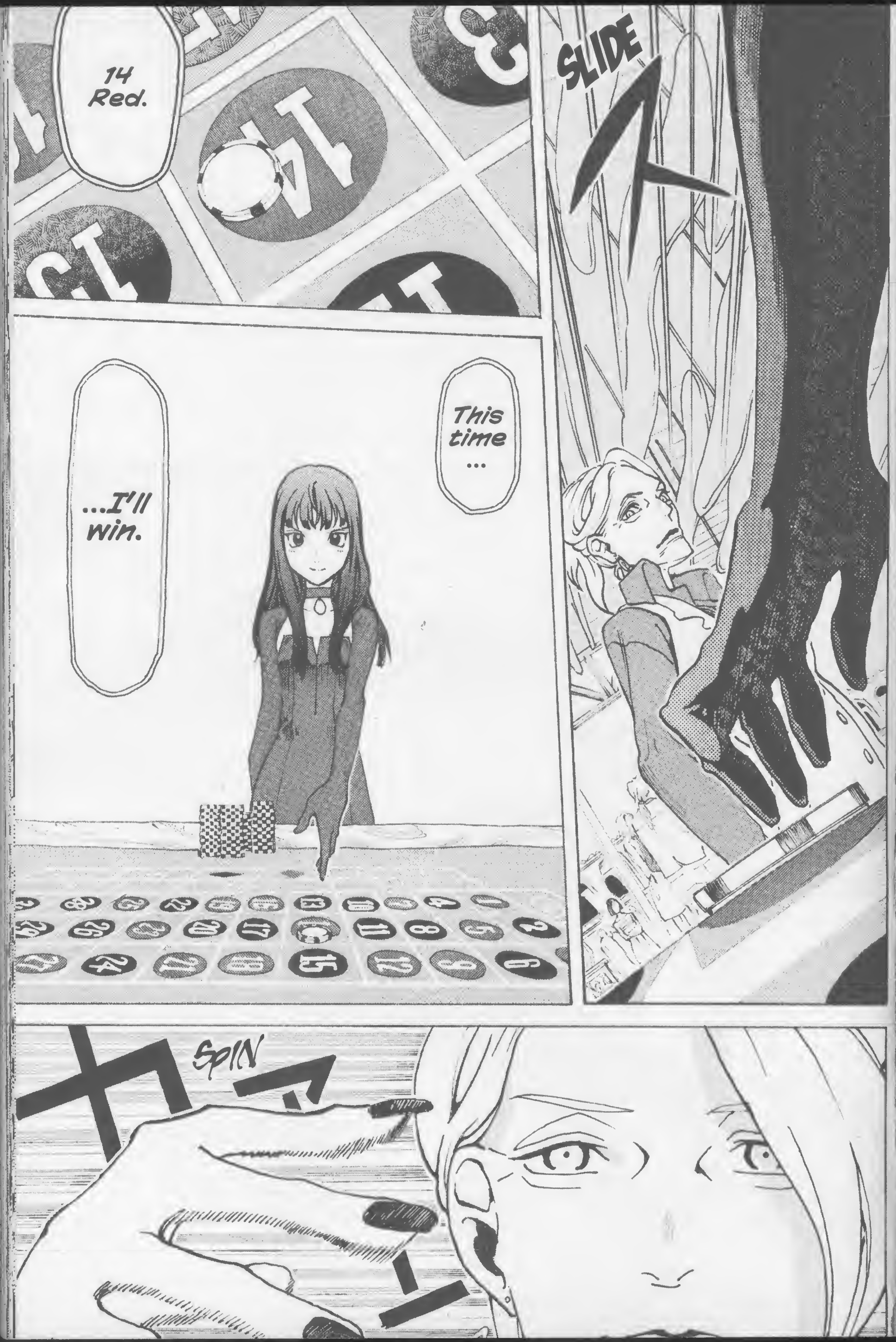

Looks like you're into it, Belle Wing.
How is she? Can you challenge her?
I will.
13 Black!

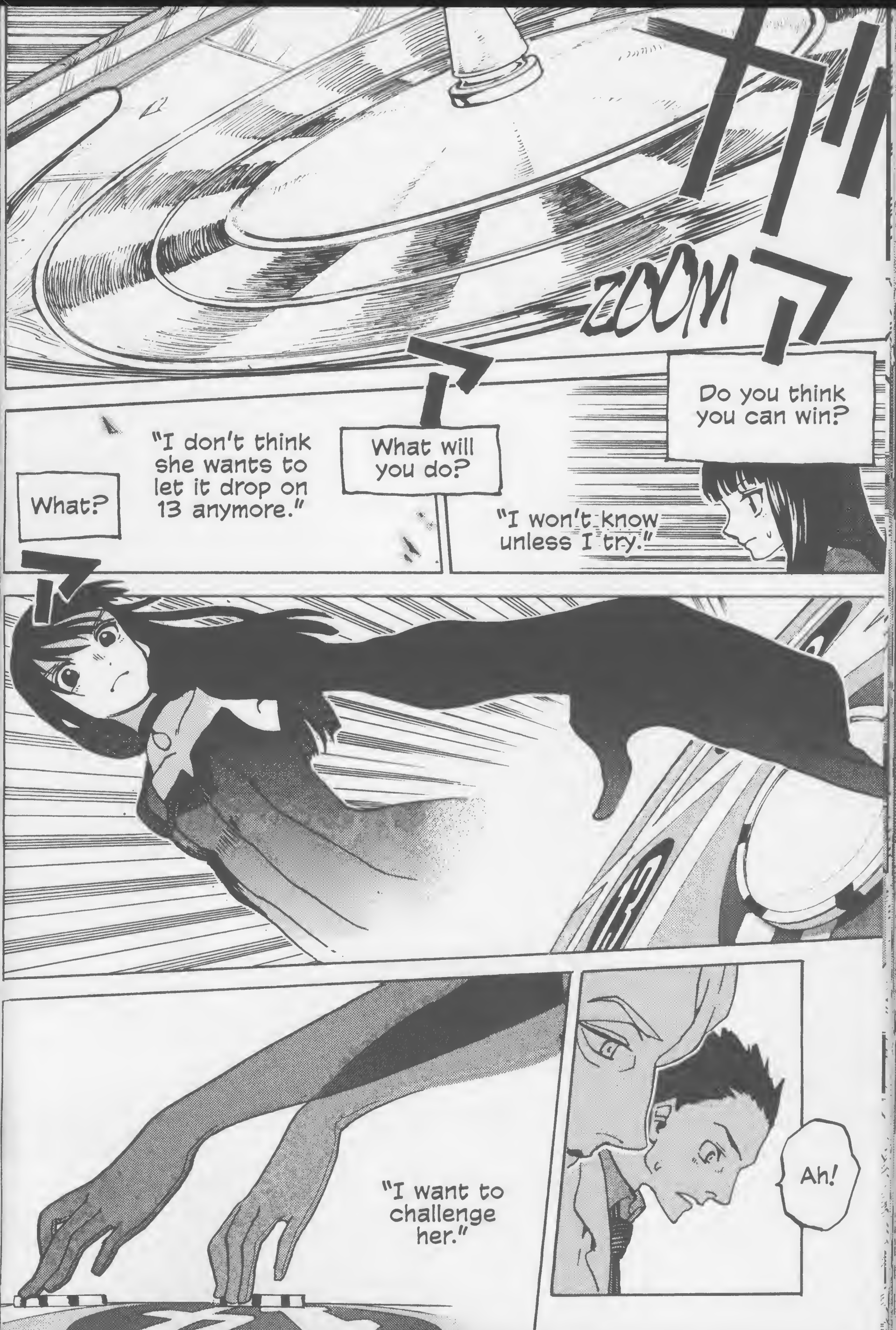

So you'll play.
Let's go.
SPIN
BATTLE

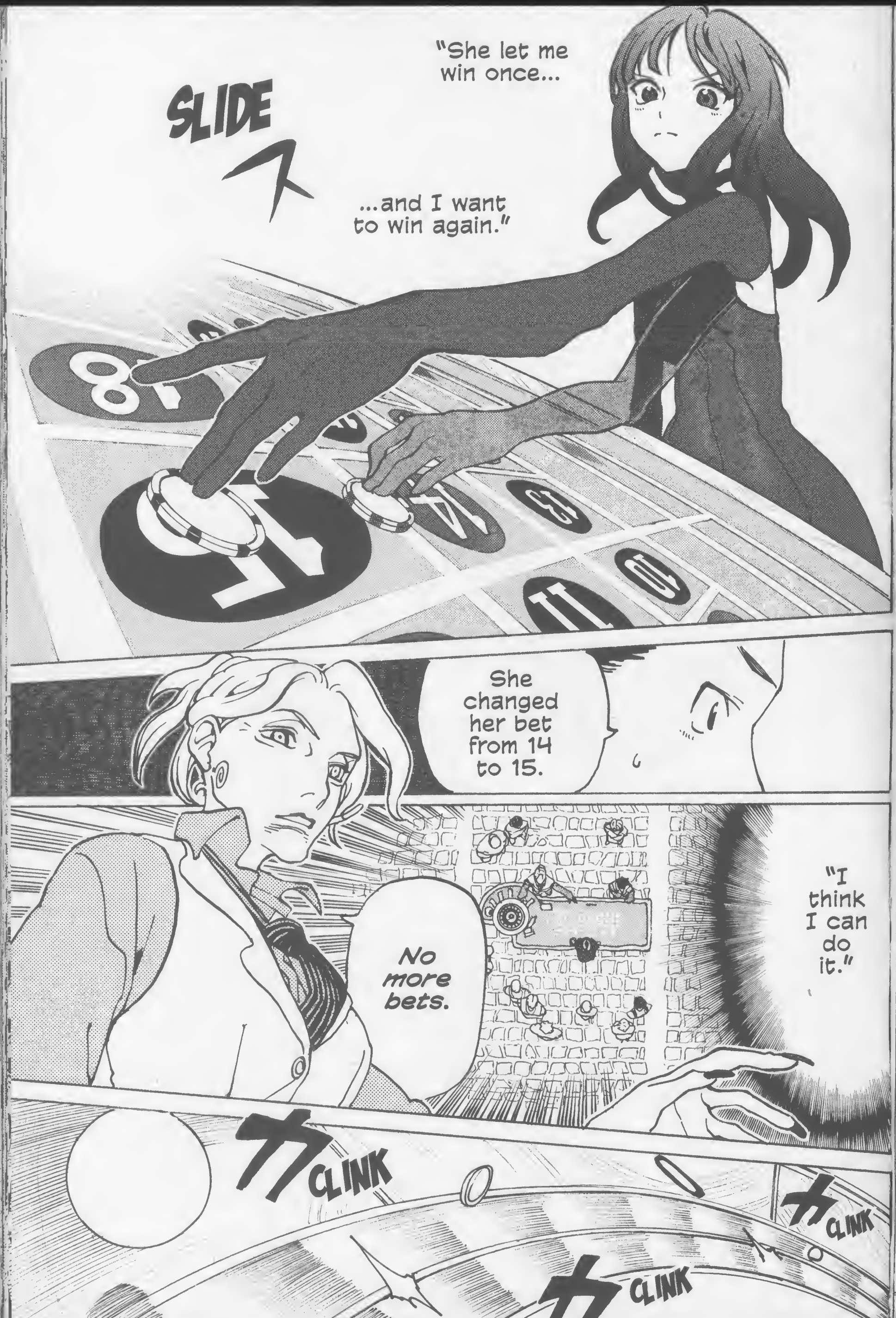

CLINK
14 Red.
Close.
...
Yes.
Let's go, Balot. You can't win against her.
"Not right now I can't."
"There's no tricks going on here."
"I think this is a natural power she has."

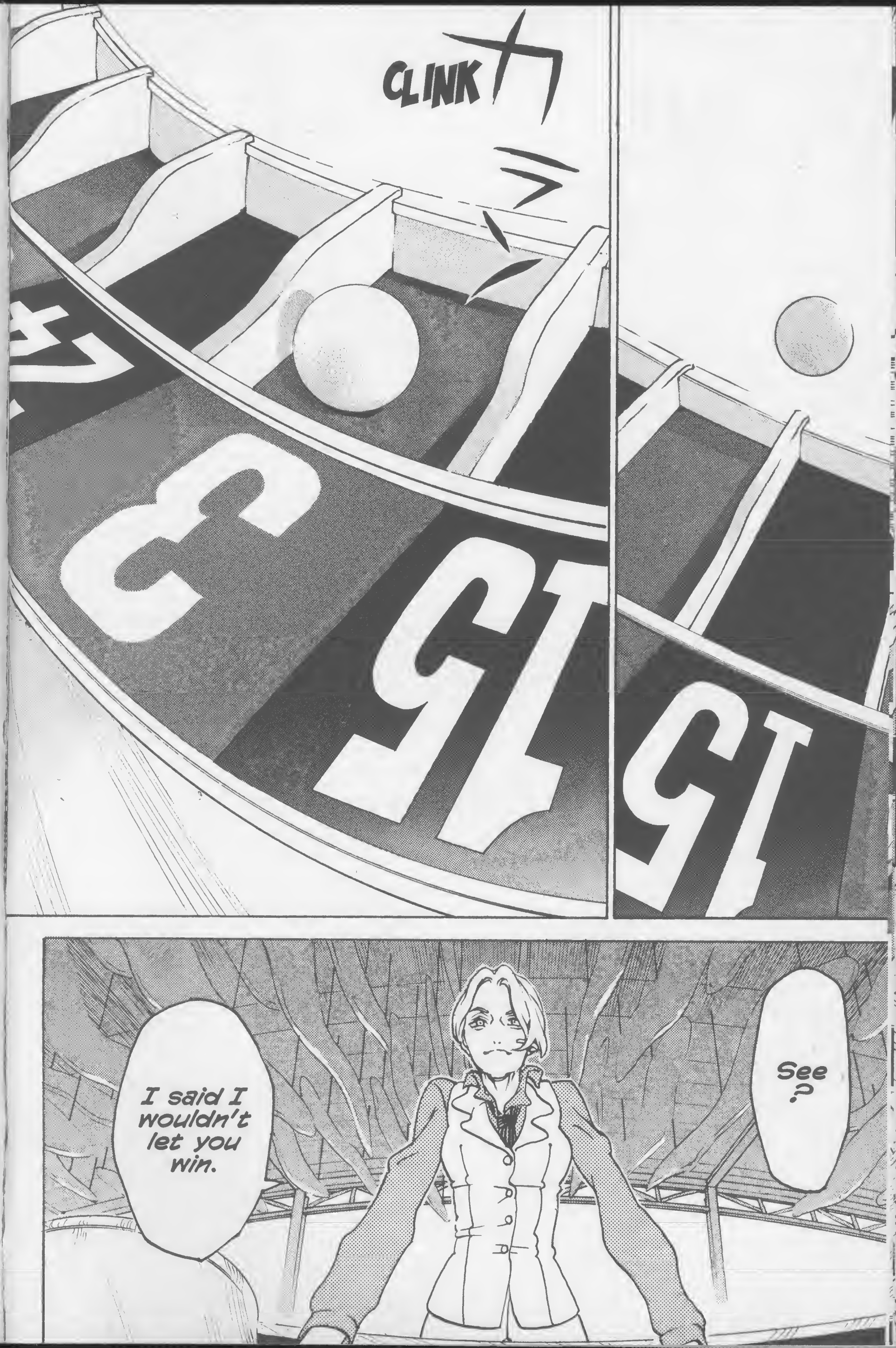

Play again?
Yes.
I see.
Let's see where it lands this time.
...
Yes.

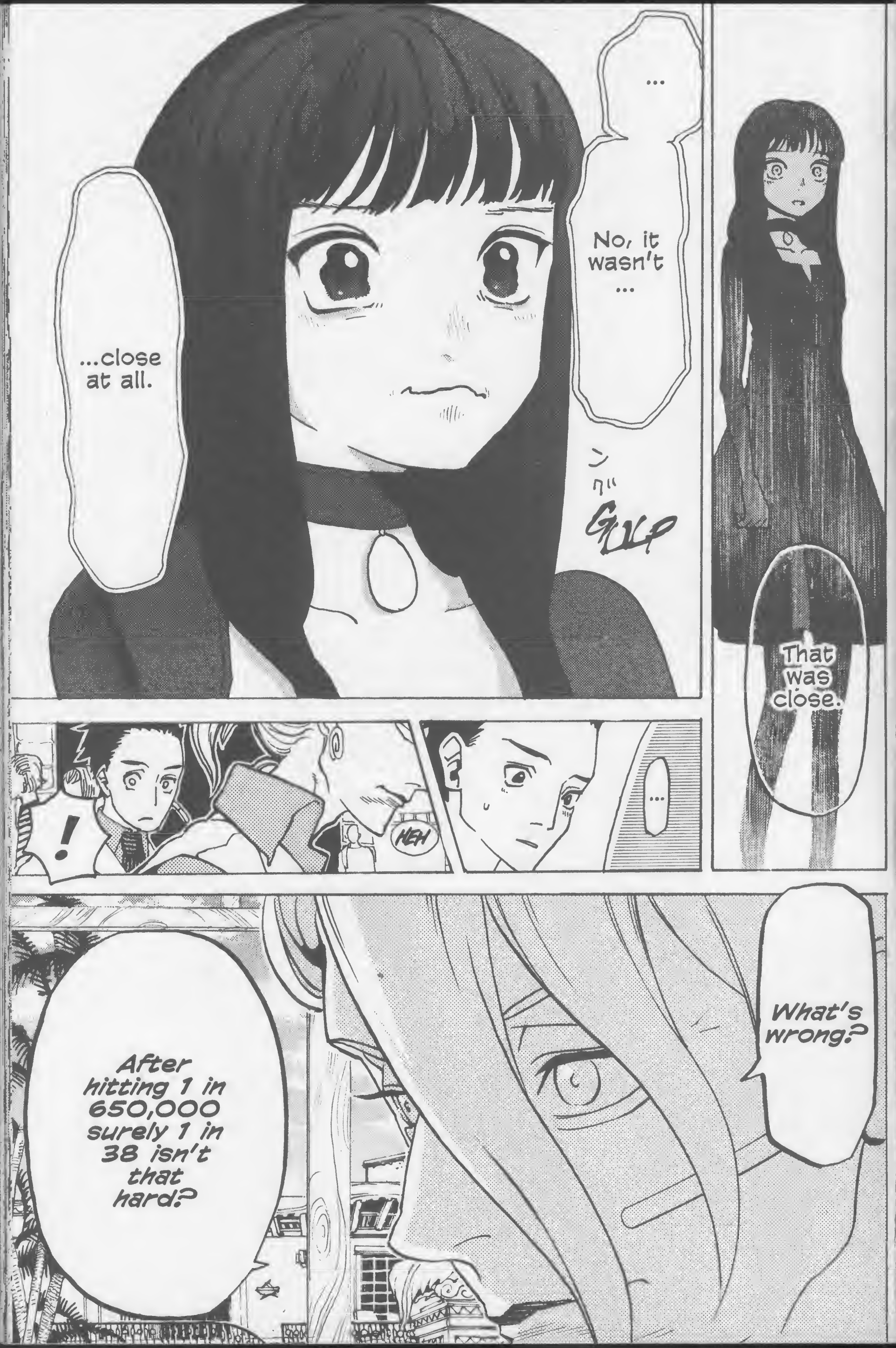

What are you laughing about, Ashre?
A spinner who can beat a 1 in 38 chance ...
...and a girl who hit a 1 in 650,000 chance.
It's a real battle.

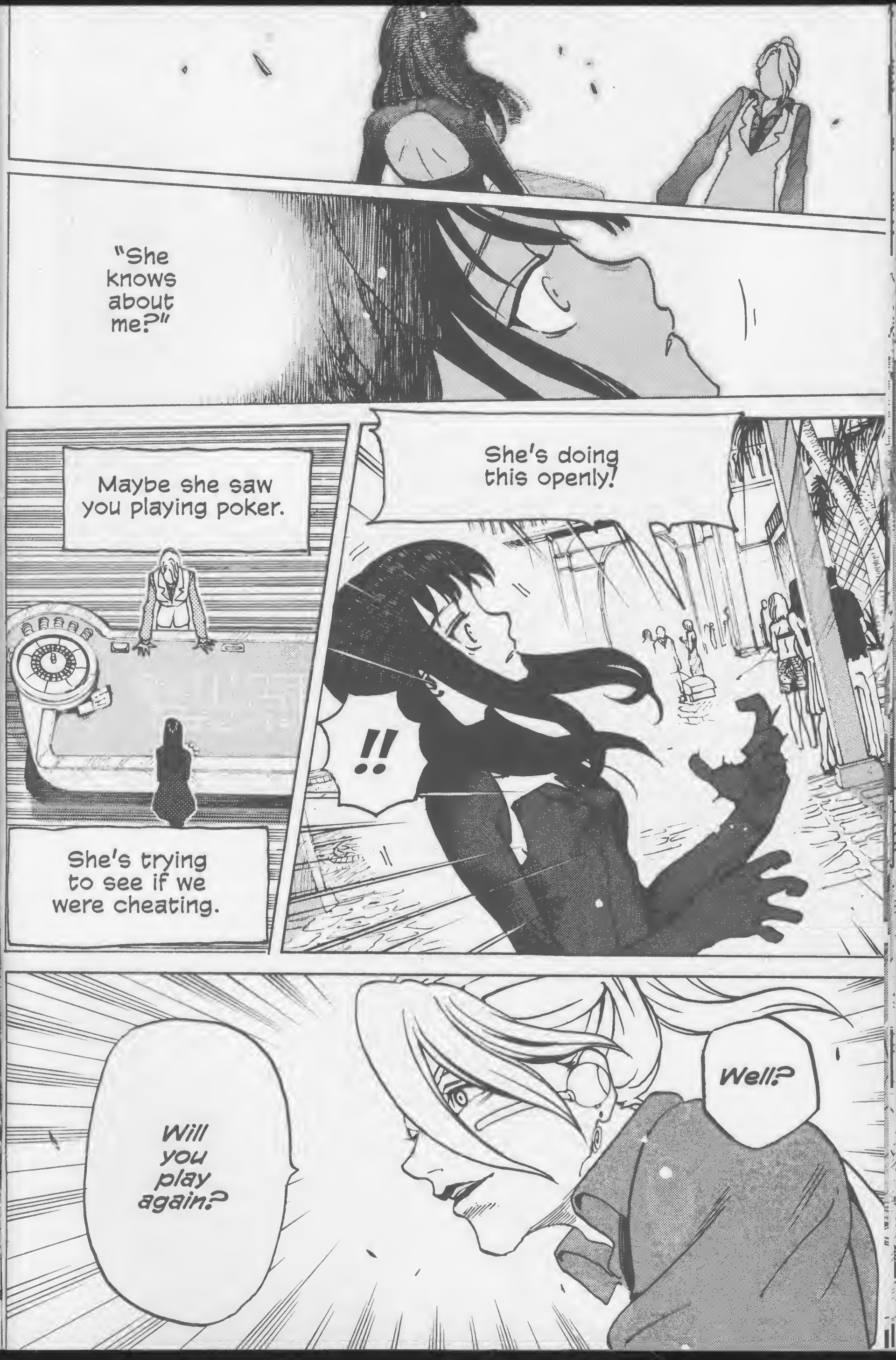

SLIDE
14 Red.
This time ...
...I'll win.
SPIN

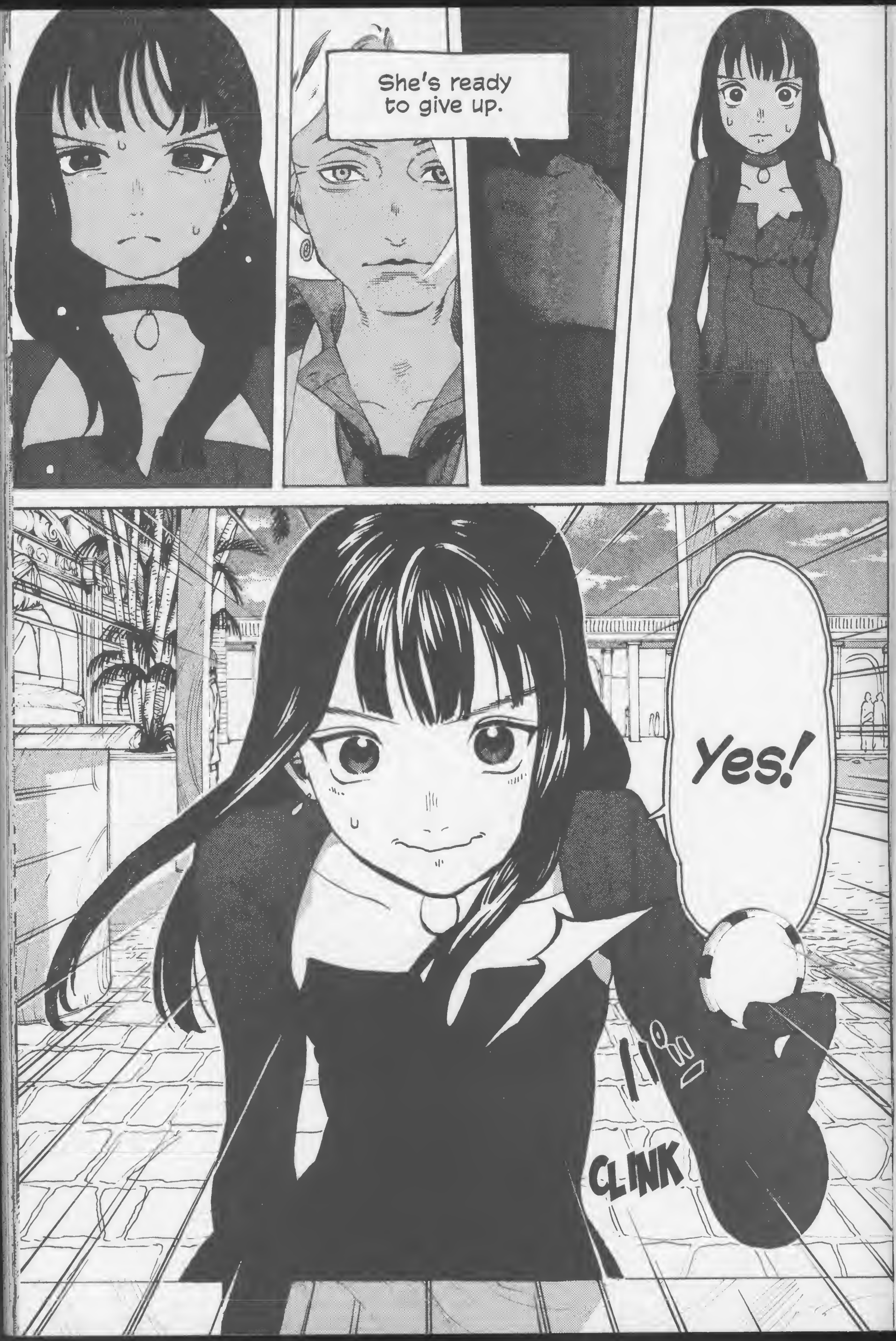

ZOOM
Do you think you can win?
"I won't know unless I try."
What will you do?
"I don't think she wants to let it drop on 13 anymore."
What?
Ah!
"I want to challenge her."


"She let me win once...
...and I want to win again."
SLIDE
She changed her bet from 14 to 15.
"I think I can do it."
No more bets.
CLINK
CLINK
CLINK


CLINK
カラ
See?
I said I wouldn't let you win.


That was close.
...
No, it wasn't ...
...close at all.
ング
GULP
...
NEH
!
What's wrong?
After hitting 1 in 650,000 surely 1 in 38 isn't that hard?

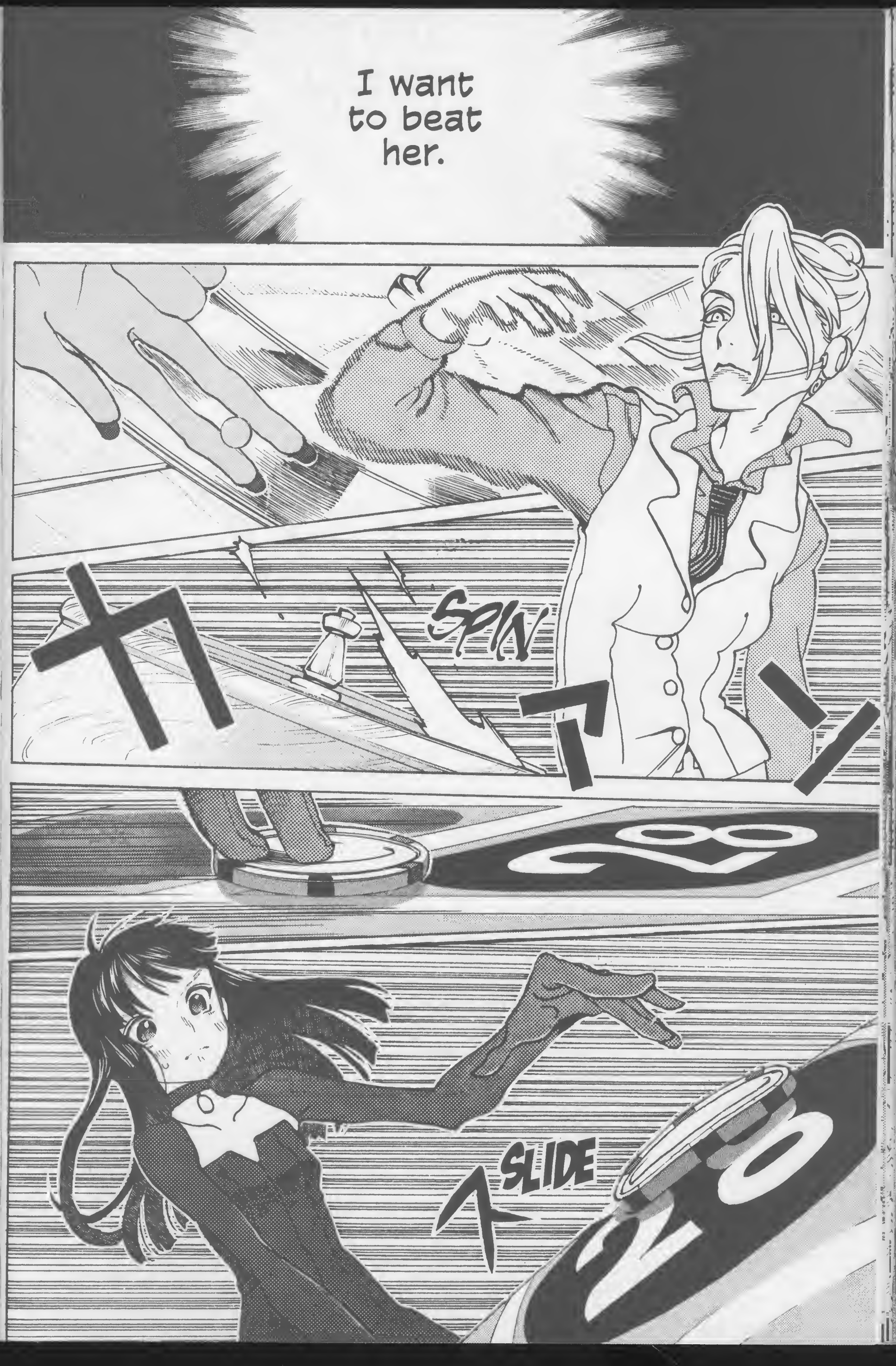

"She knows about me?"
She's doing this openly!
!!
Maybe she saw you playing poker.
She's trying to see if we were cheating.
Well?
Will you play again?

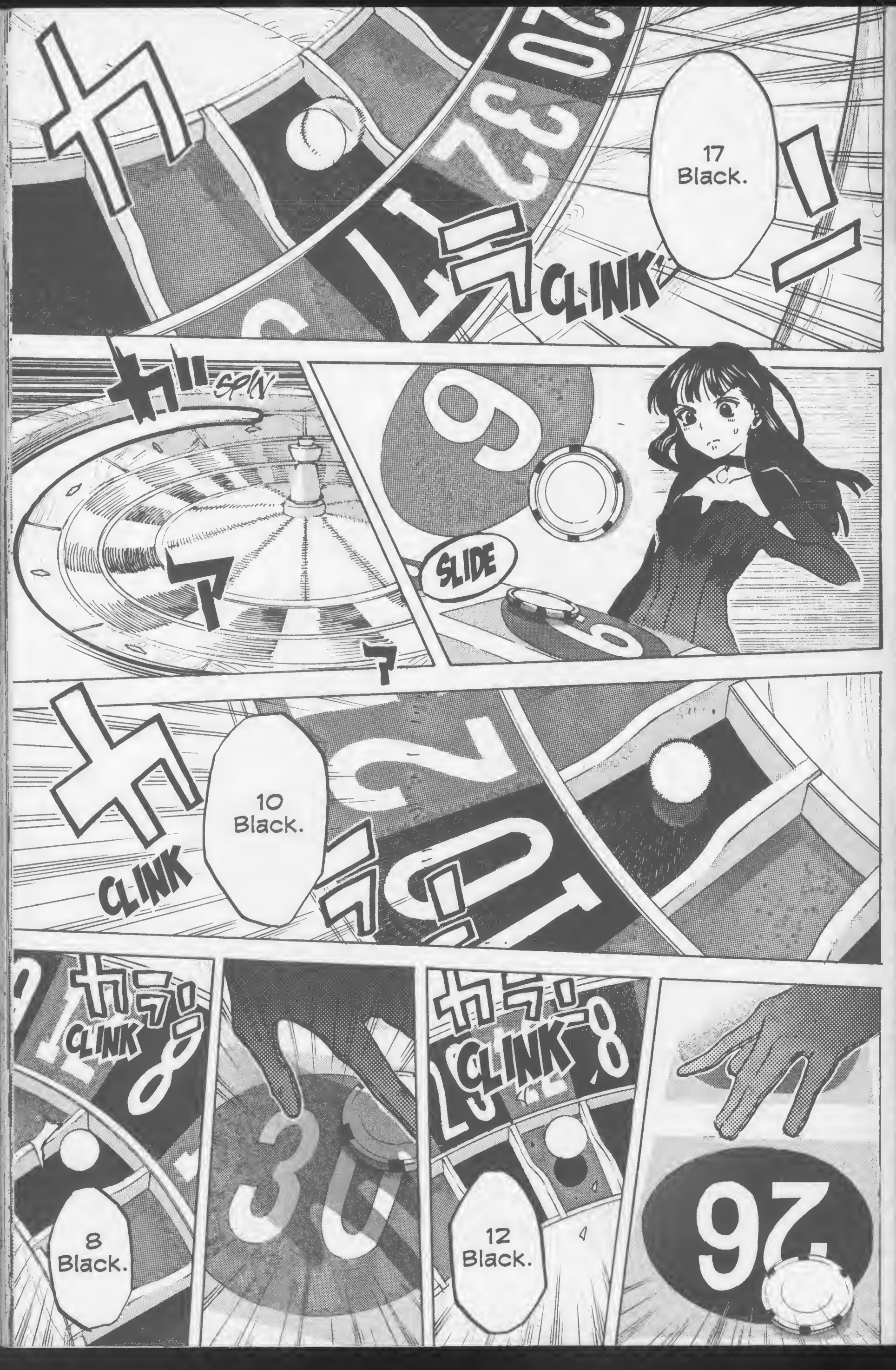

She's ready to give up.
Yes!
CLINK

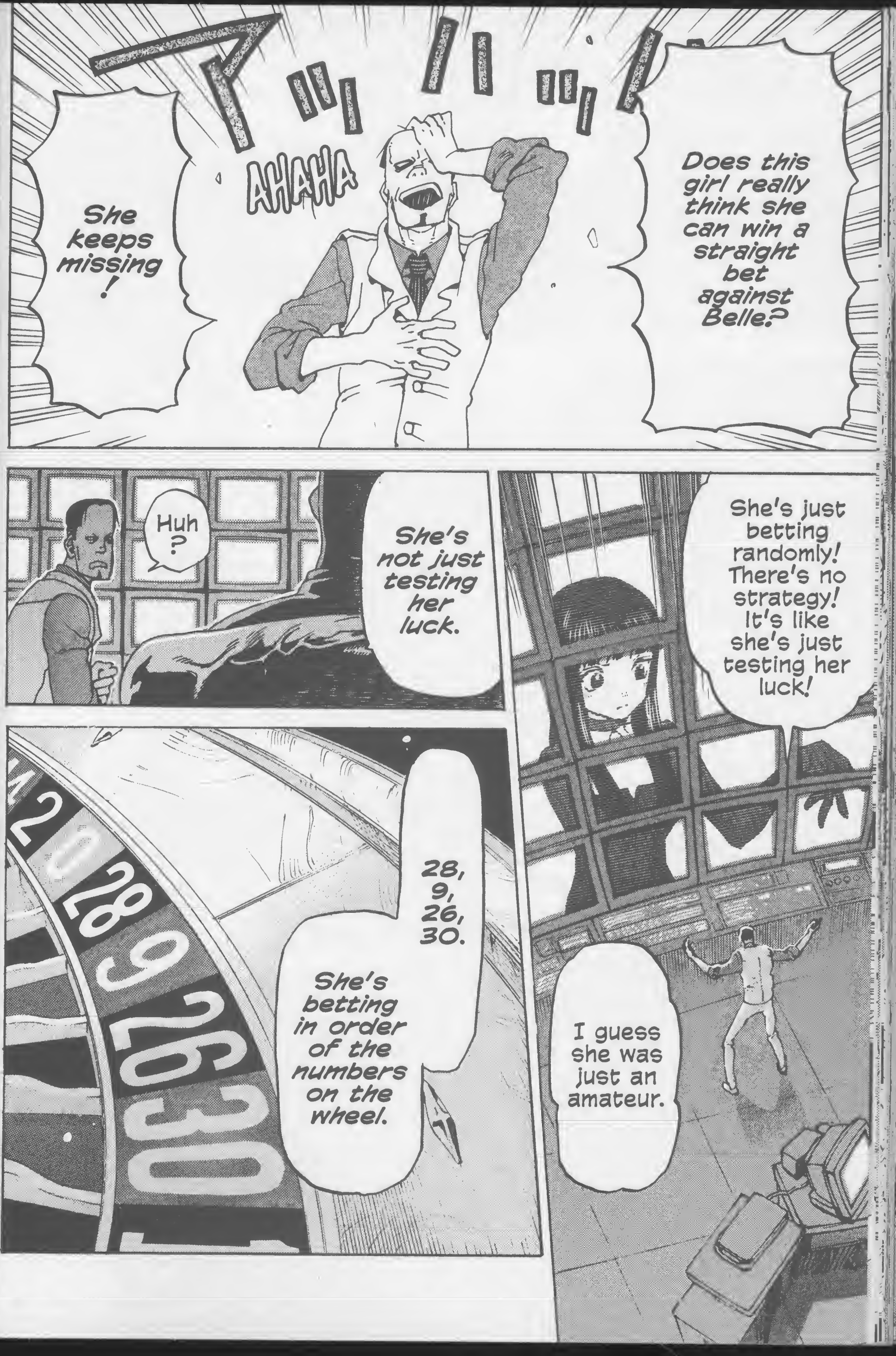
MARDOCK SCRAMBLE

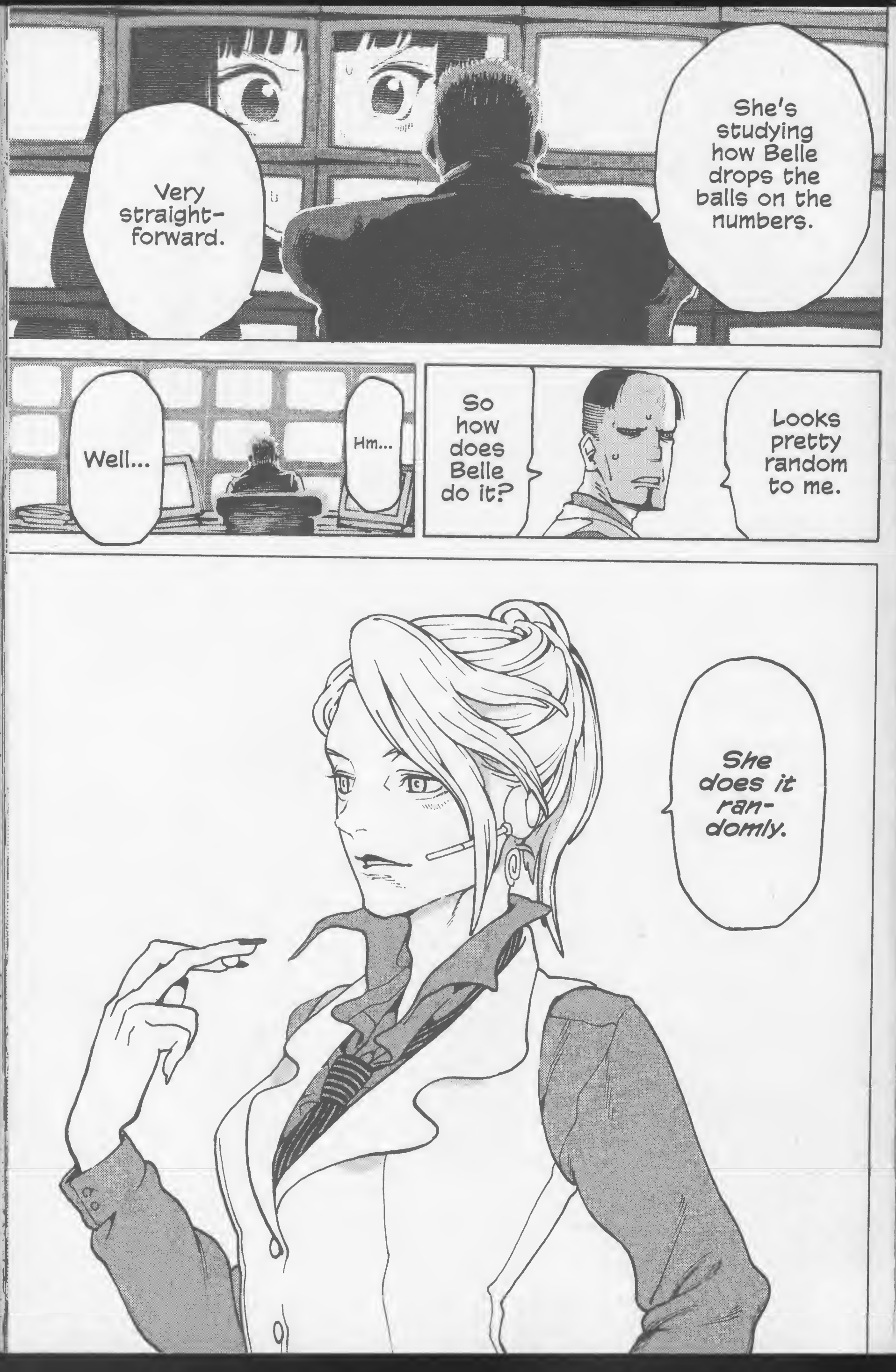
Chapter 19: Explosion (1)

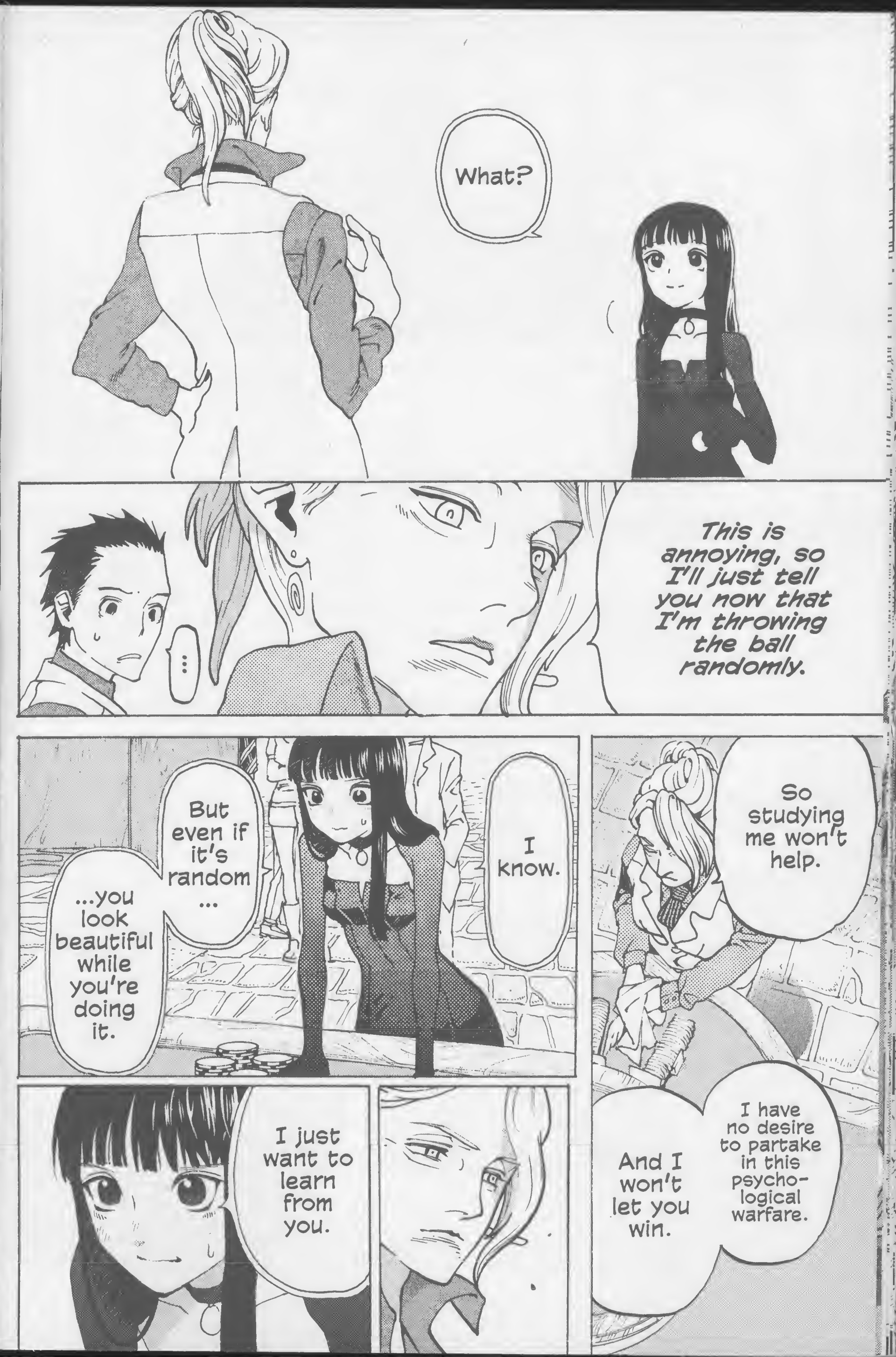
MARDOCK SCRAMBLE

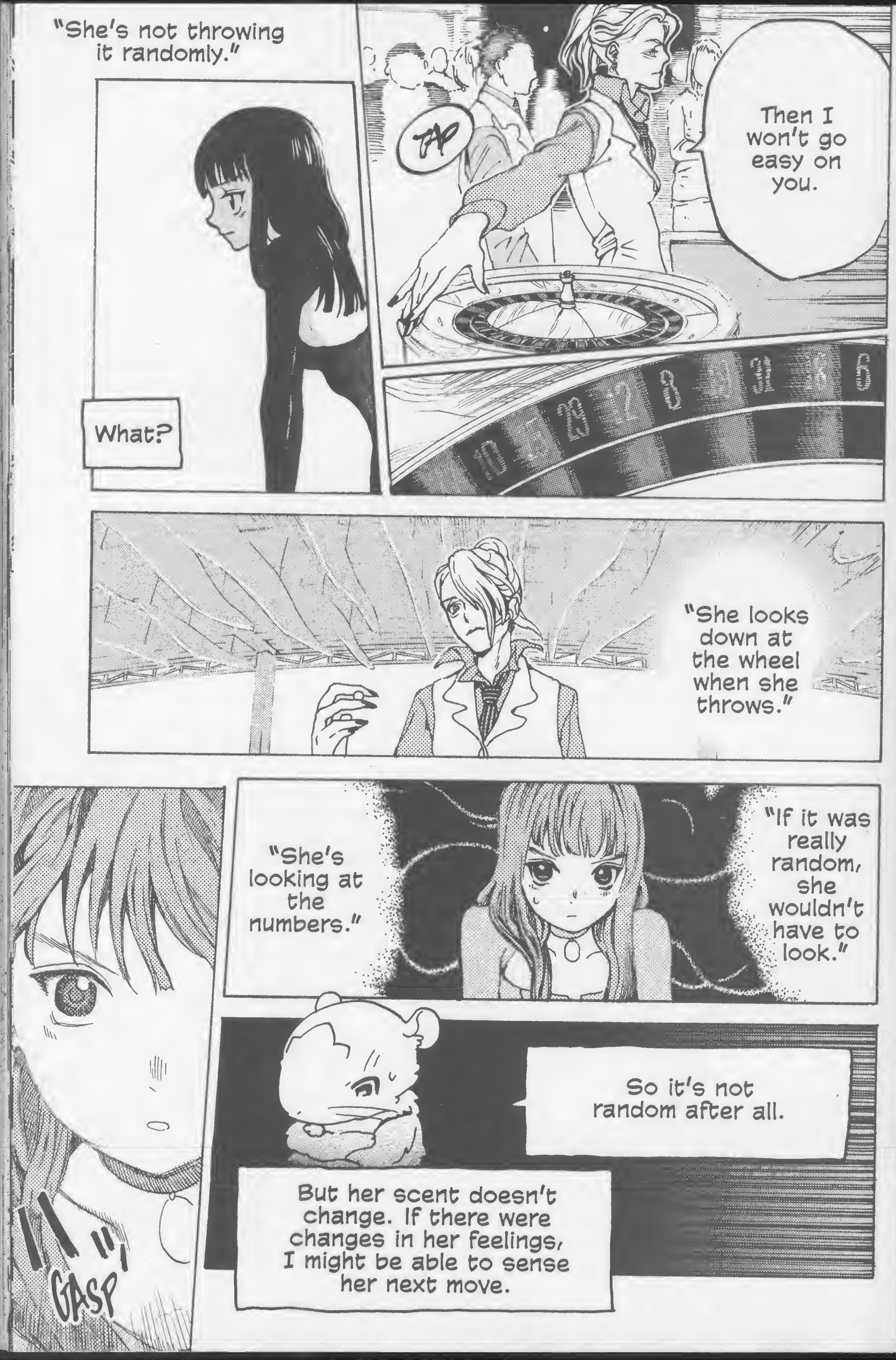

I want to beat her.
カ
SPIN
アーン
ヘ
SLIDE

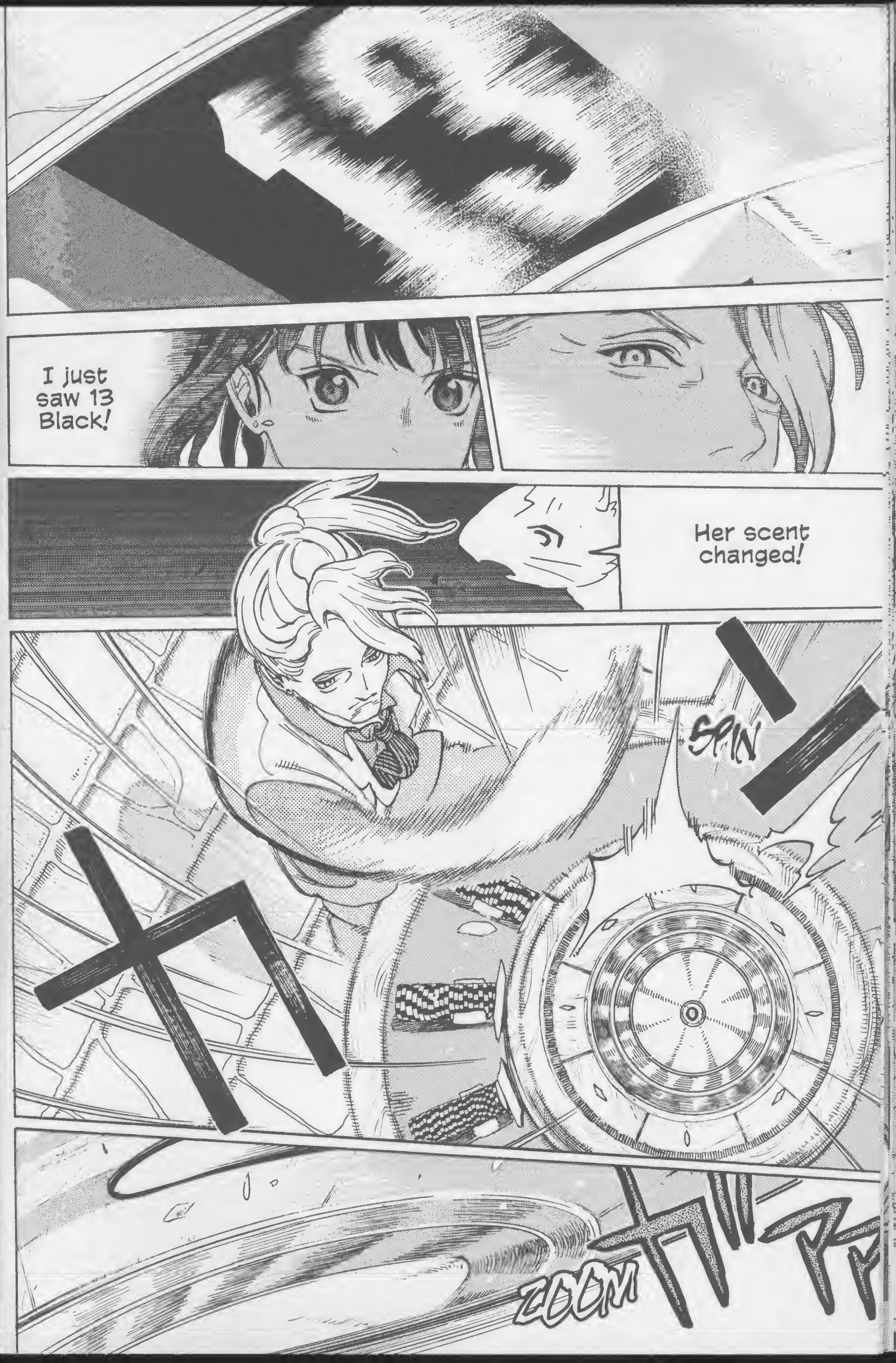

17 Black.
カラーン
CLINK
ガ
SPIN
アァ
SLIDE
10 Black.
カラ
CLINK
カラ
CLINK
12 Black.
カラ
CLINK
8 Black.

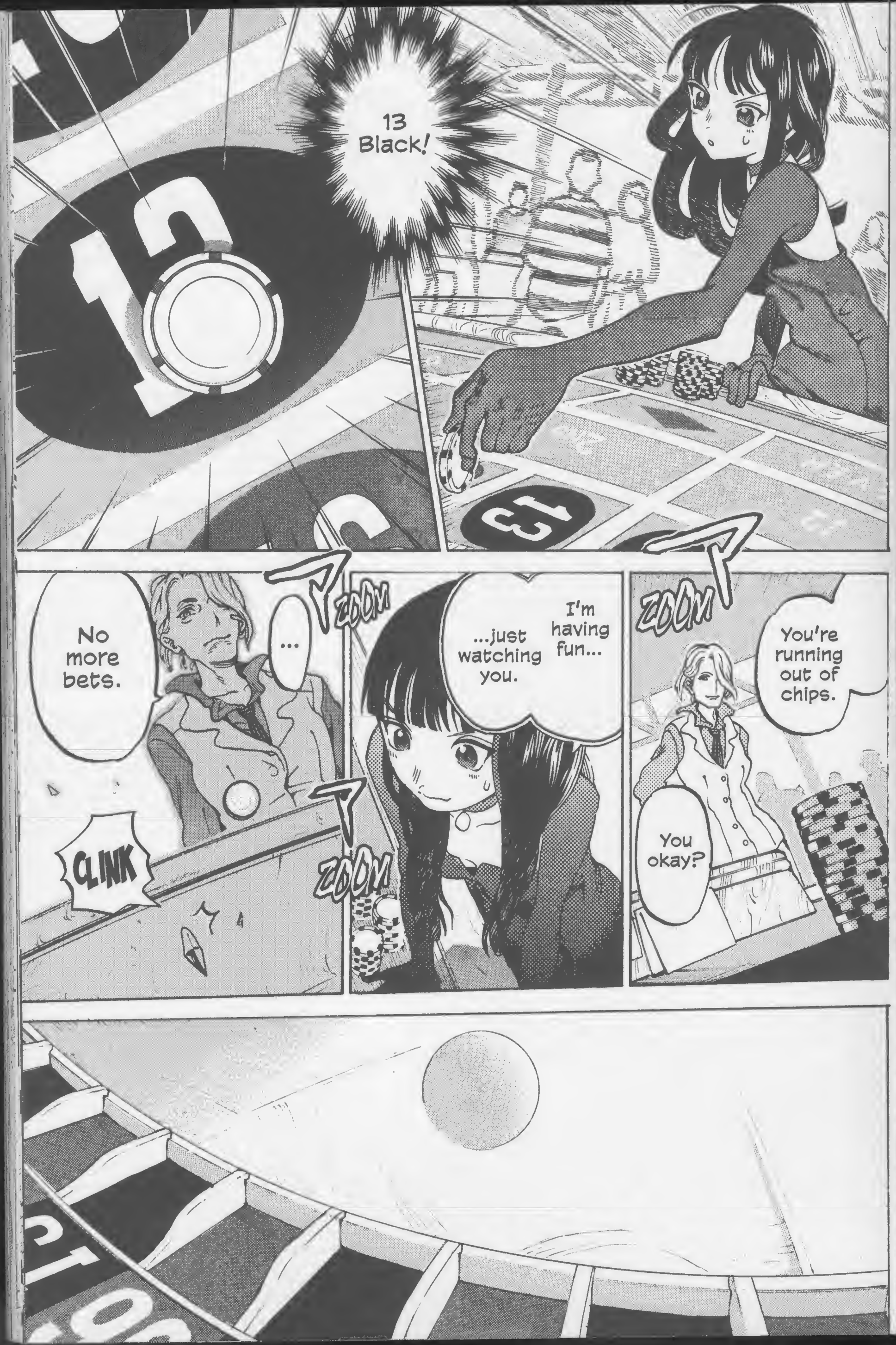

Does this girl really think she can win a straight bet against Belle?
AHAHA
She keeps missing!
She's just betting randomly! There's no strategy! It's like she's just testing her luck!
I guess she was just an amateur.
She's not just testing her luck.
Huh?
28, 9, 26, 30.
She's betting in order of the numbers on the wheel.

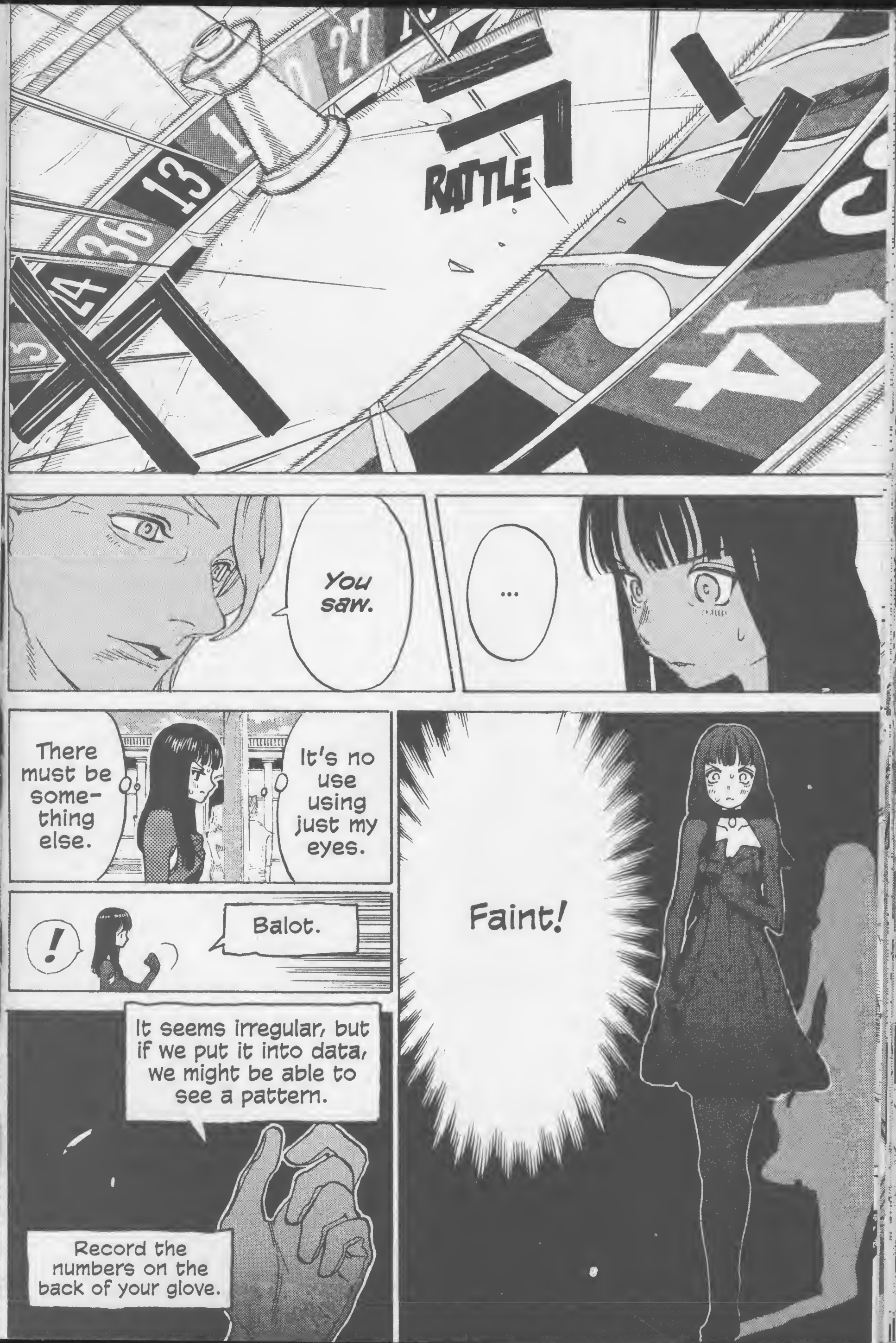

She's studying how Belle drops the balls on the numbers.
Very straight-forward.
Looks pretty random to me.
So how does Belle do it?
Hm...
Well...
She does it randomly.

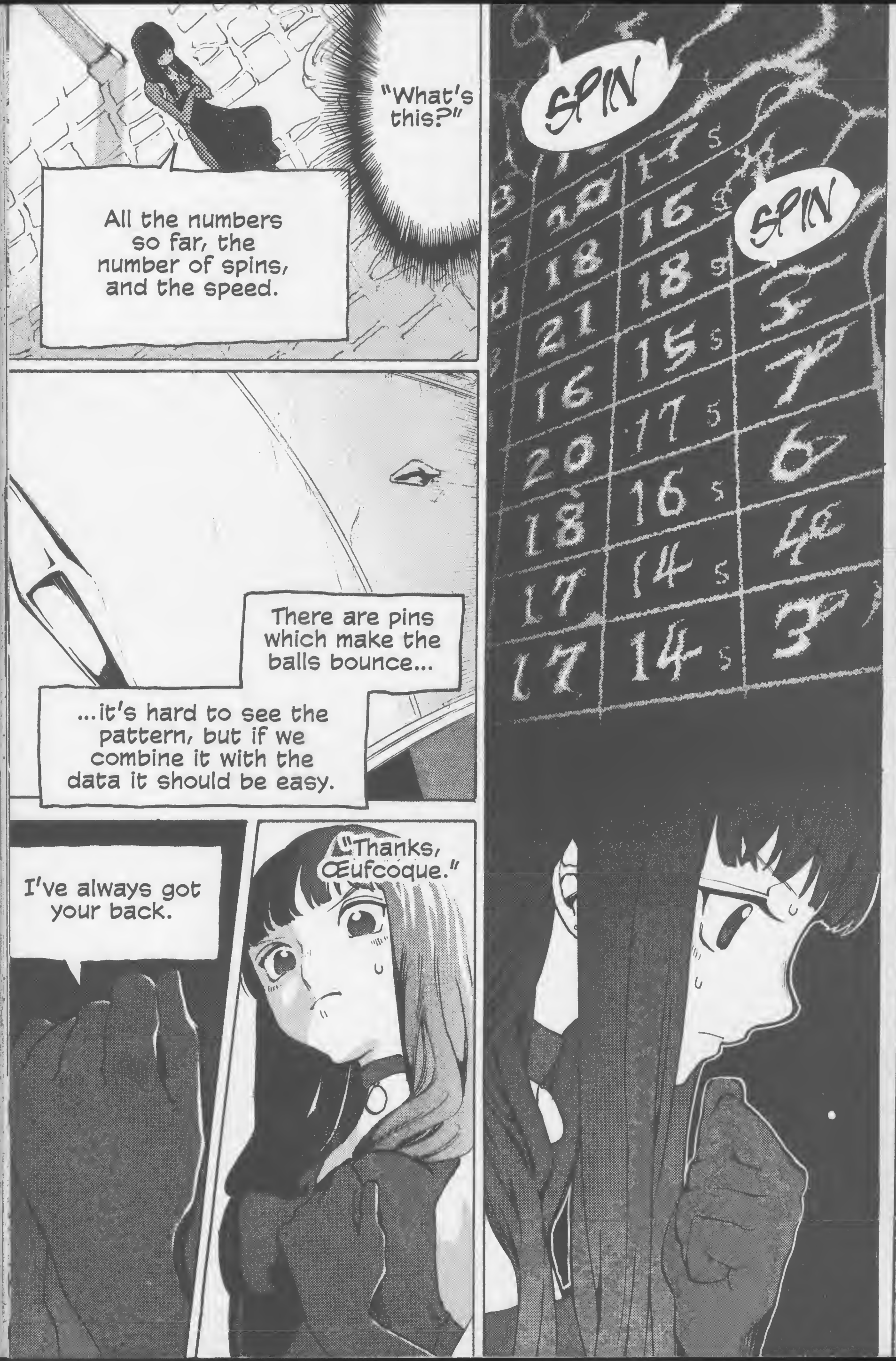

What?
This is annoying, so I'll just tell you now that I'm throwing the ball randomly.
...
So studying me won't help.
I know.
But even if it's random...
...you look beautiful while you're doing it.
I have no desire to partake in this psychological warfare.
And I won't let you win.
I just want to learn from you.

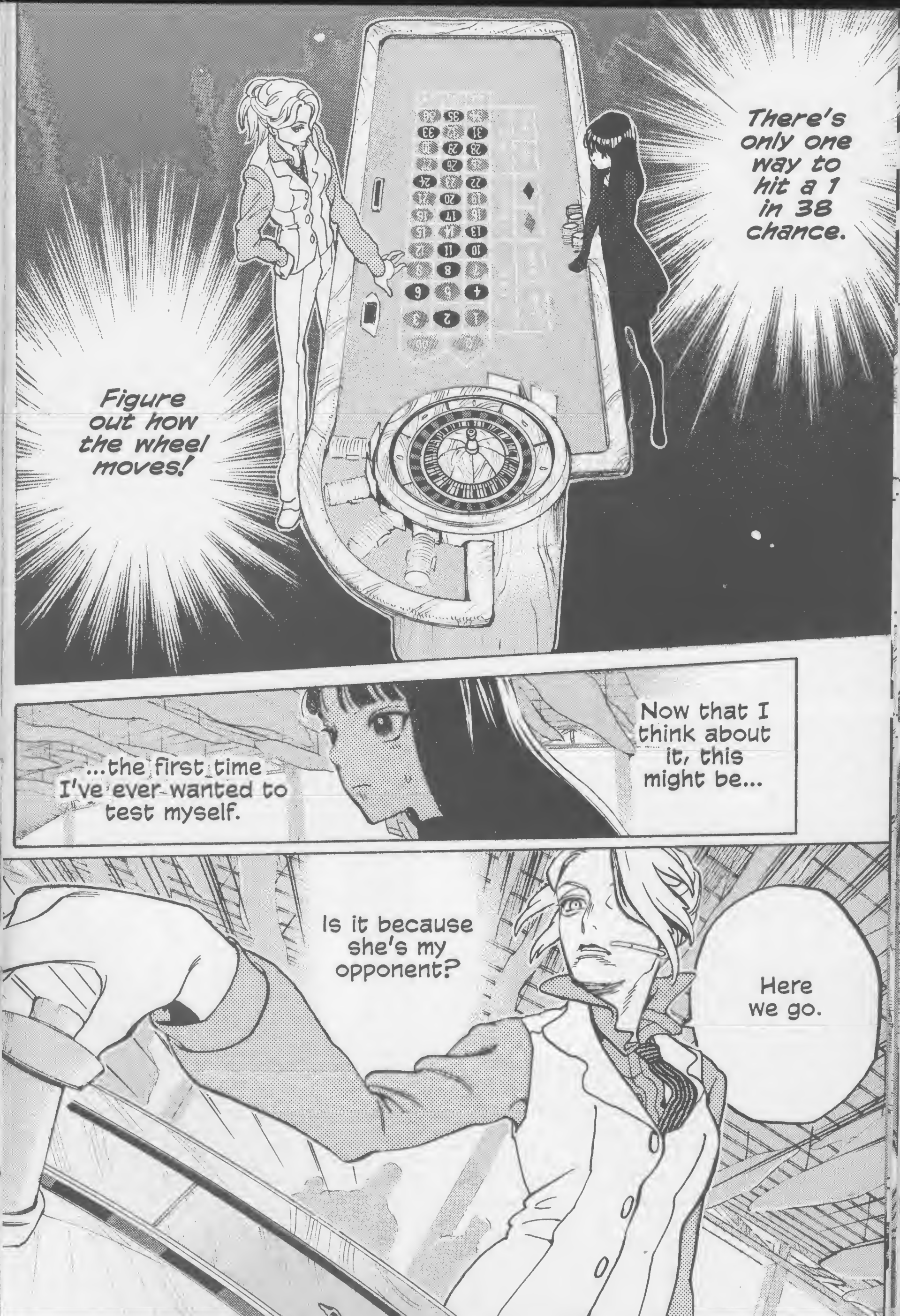

Then I won't go easy on you.
TAP
6
31
8
12
29
10
"She's not throwing it randomly."
What?
"She looks down at the wheel when she throws."
"If it was really random, she wouldn't have to look."
"She's looking at the numbers."
GASP
So it's not random after all.
But her scent doesn't change. If there were changes in her feelings, I might be able to sense her next move.

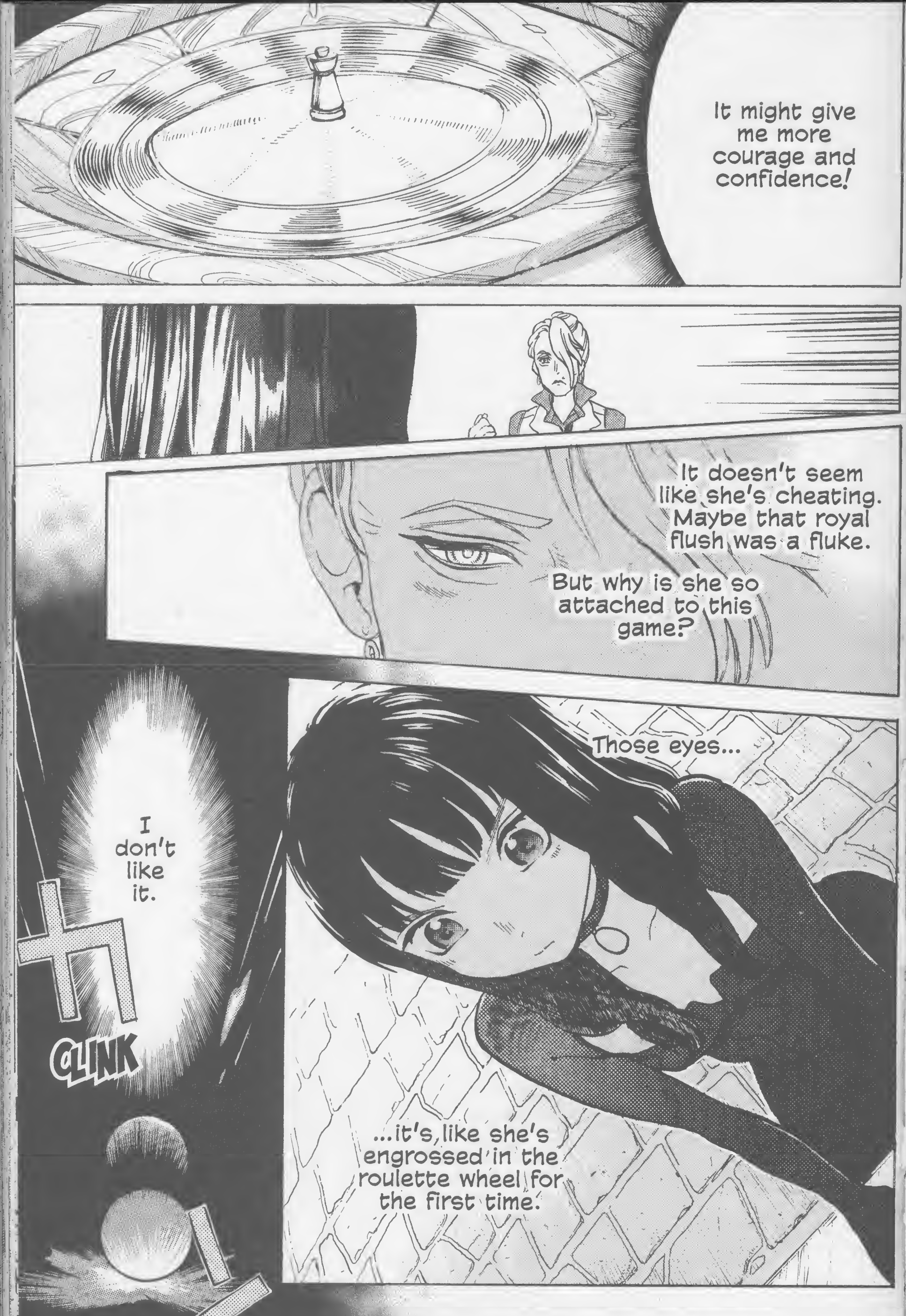

I just saw 13 Black!
Her scent changed!
SPIN
ZOOM

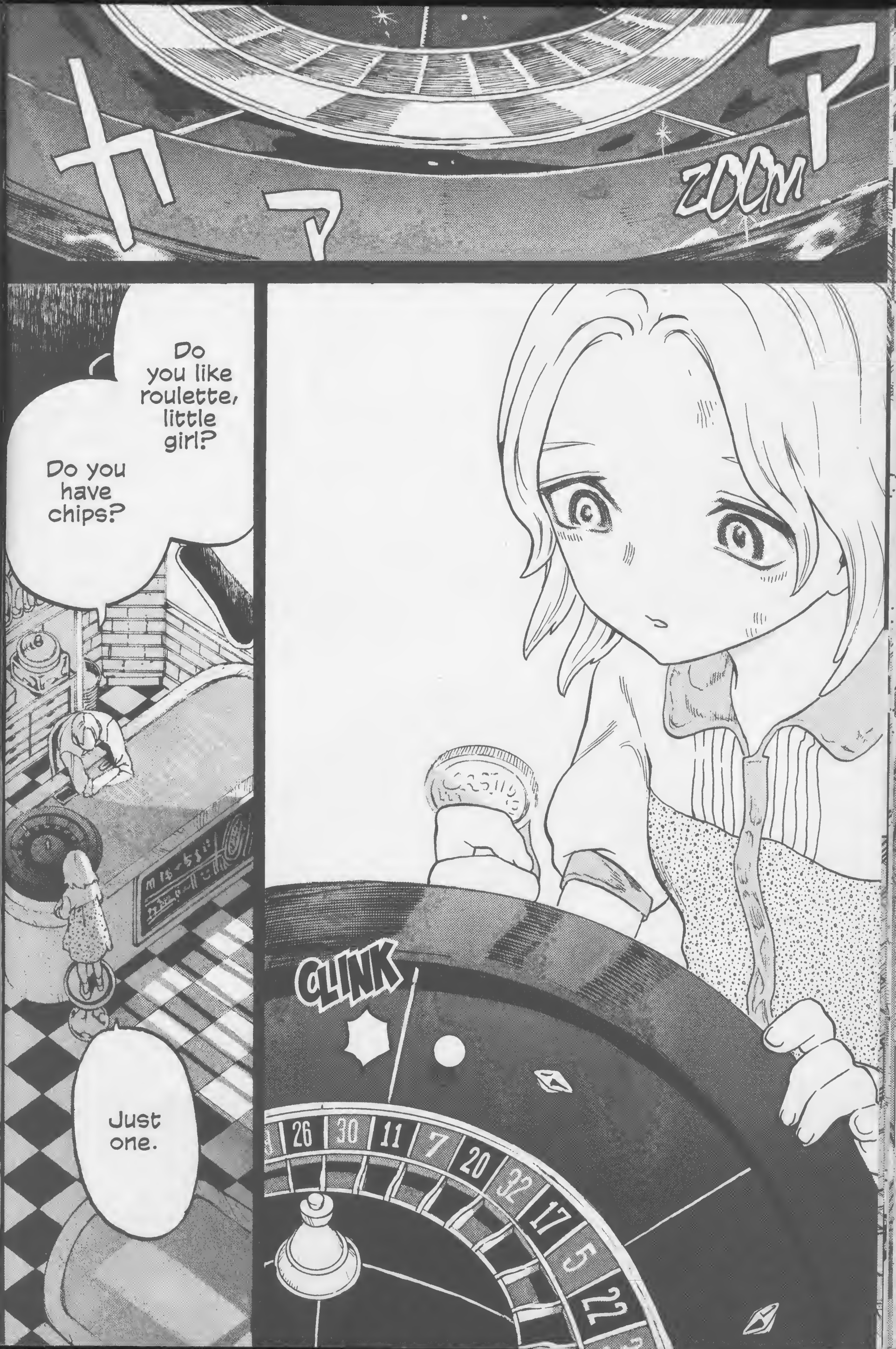

13 Black!
You're running out of chips.
ZOOM
You okay?
I'm having fun...
...just watching you.
ZOOM
ZOOM
...
No more bets.
CLINK

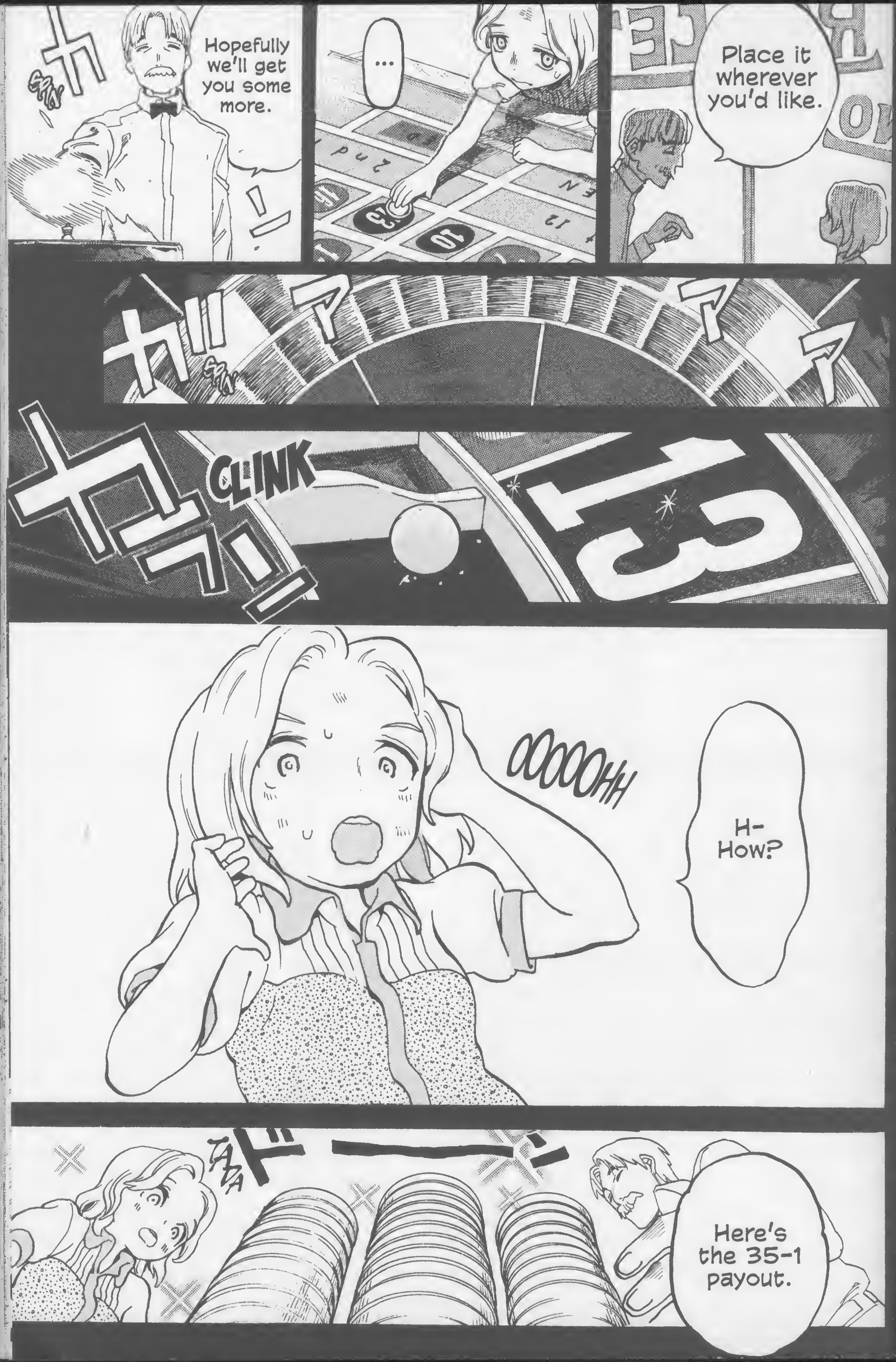

RATTLE
...
You saw.
Faint!
It's no use using just my eyes.
There must be something else.
Balot.
!
It seems irregular, but if we put it into data, we might be able to see a pattern.
Record the numbers on the back of your glove.

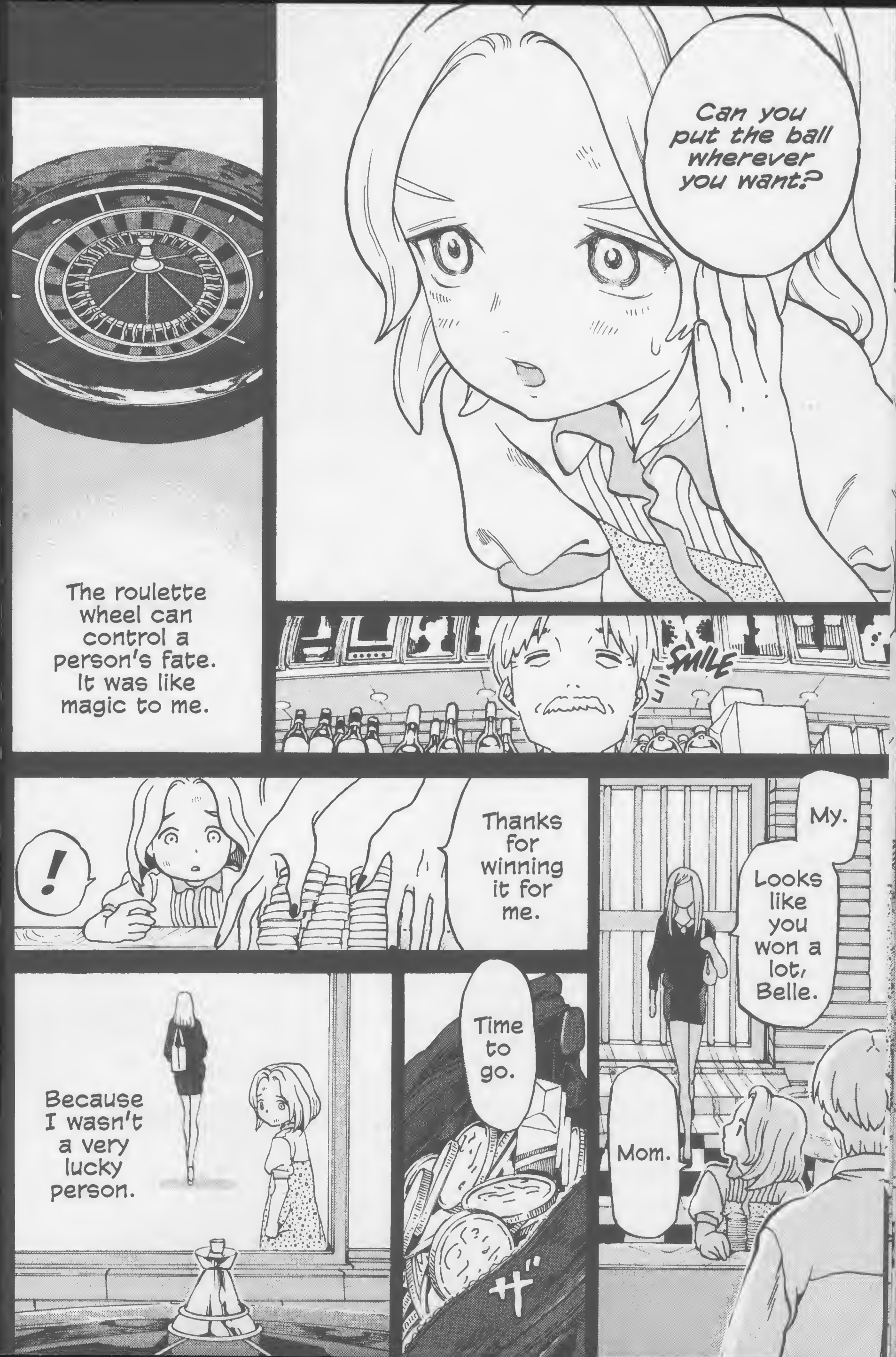

"What's this?"
All the numbers so far, the number of spins, and the speed.
SPIN
SPIN
17 s
20 16 s
18 18 s
21 15 s
16 15 s
20 17 s
18 16 s
17 14 s
17 14 s
3
7
6
4
3
There are pins which make the balls bounce...
...it's hard to see the pattern, but if we combine it with the data it should be easy.
"Thanks, Œufcoque."
I've always got your back.

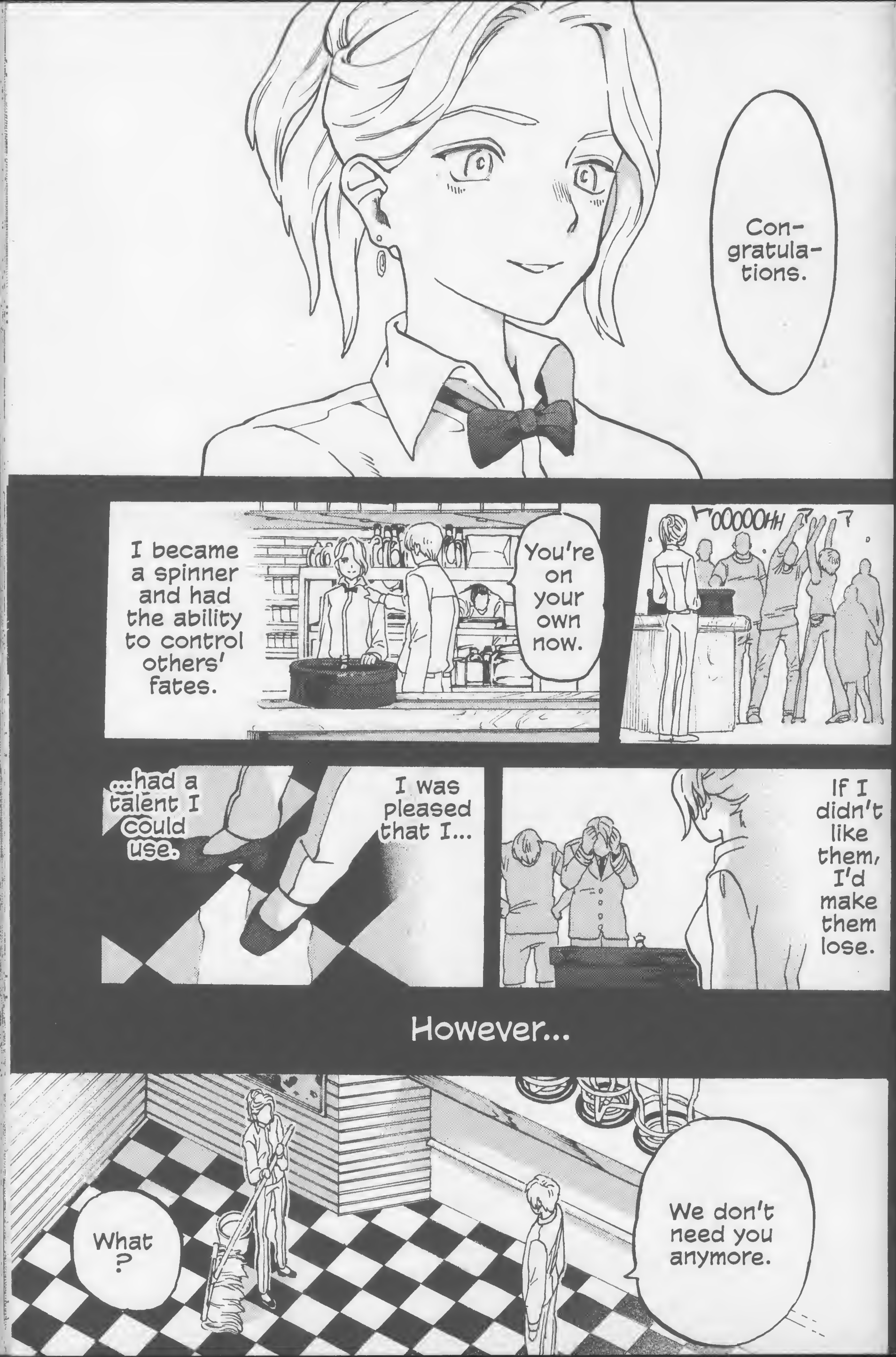

There's only one way to hit a 1 in 38 chance.
Figure out how the wheel moves!
Now that I think about it, this might be...
...the first time I've ever wanted to test myself.
Here we go.
Is it because she's my opponent?

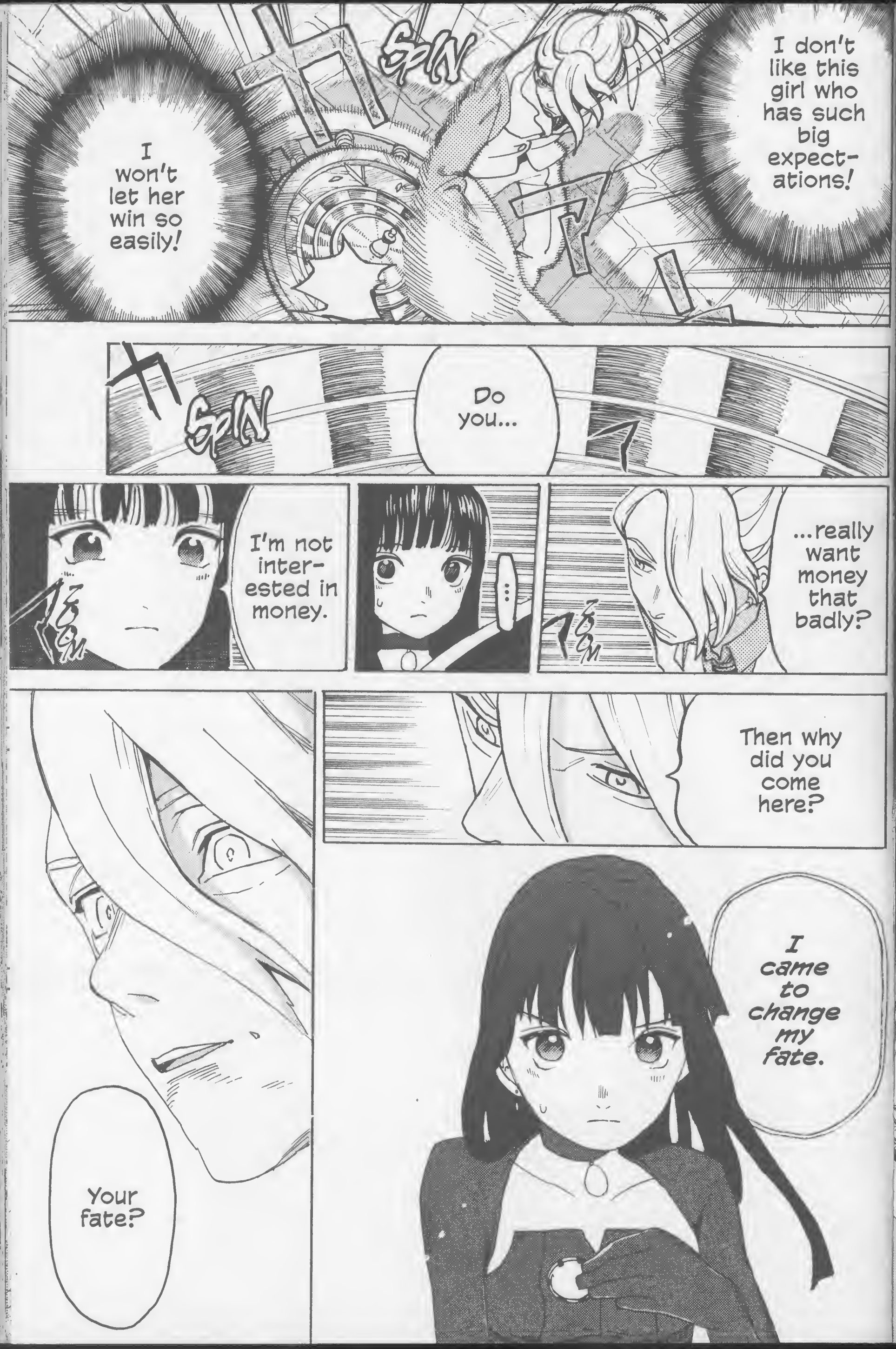

It might give me more courage and confidence!
It doesn't seem like she's cheating. Maybe that royal flush was a fluke.
But why is she so attached to this game?
Those eyes...
...it's like she's engrossed in the roulette wheel for the first time.
I don't like it.
CLINK

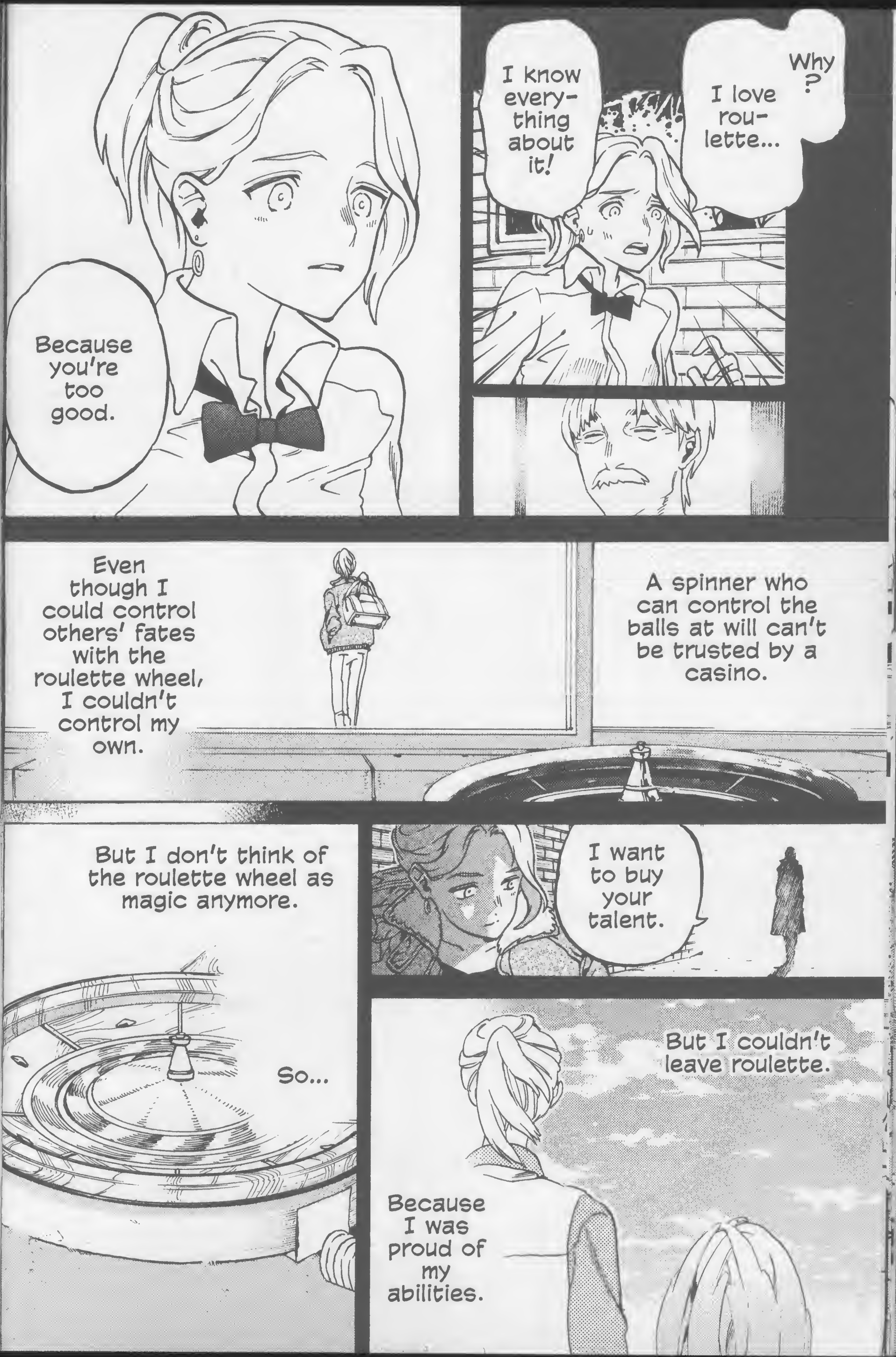

ZOOM
CLINK
Do you like roulette, little girl?
Do you have chips?
Just one.

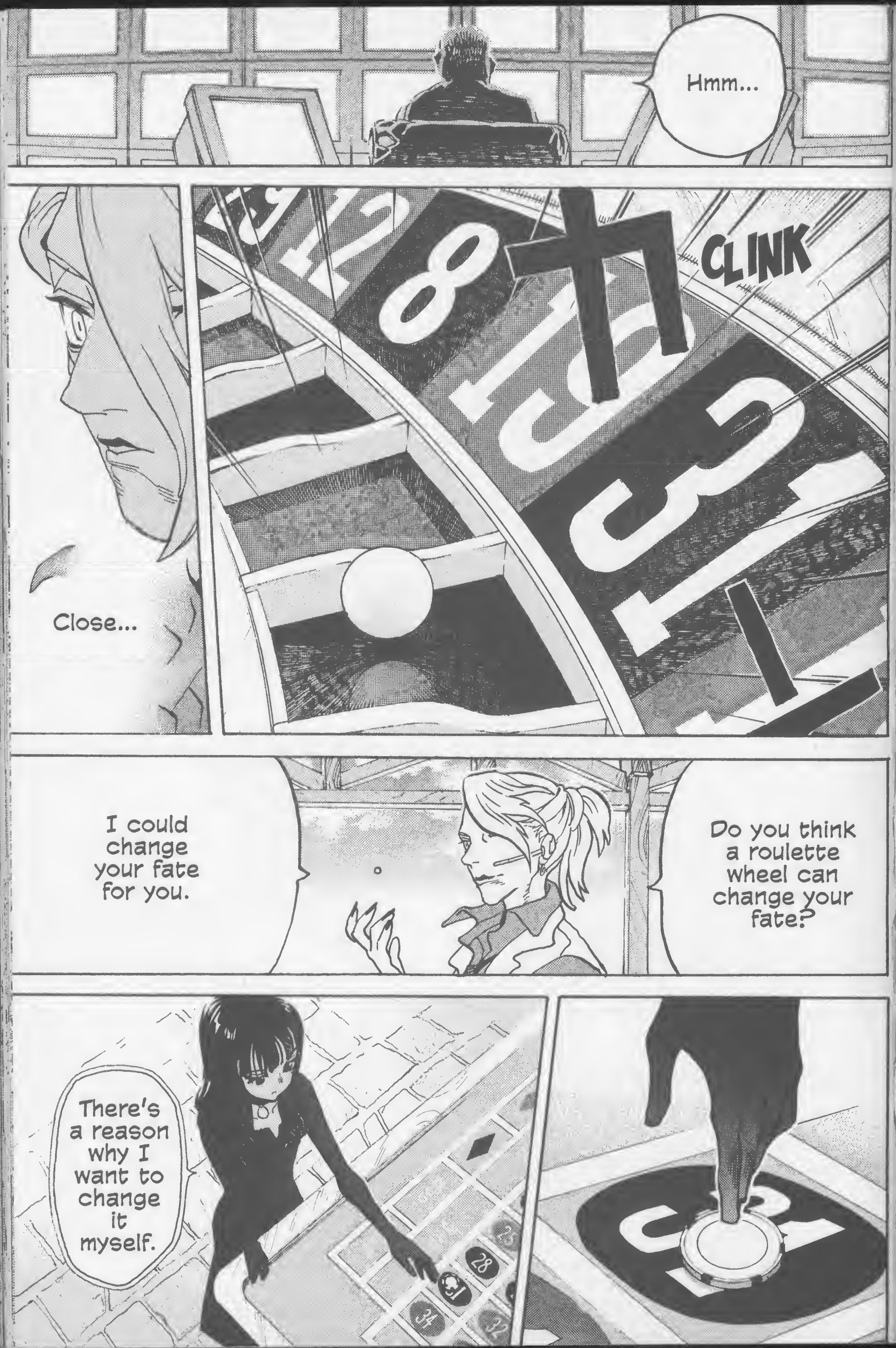

Place it wherever you'd like.
...
Hopefully we'll get you some more.
CLINK
13
OOOOHH
H- How?
Here's the 35-1 payout.

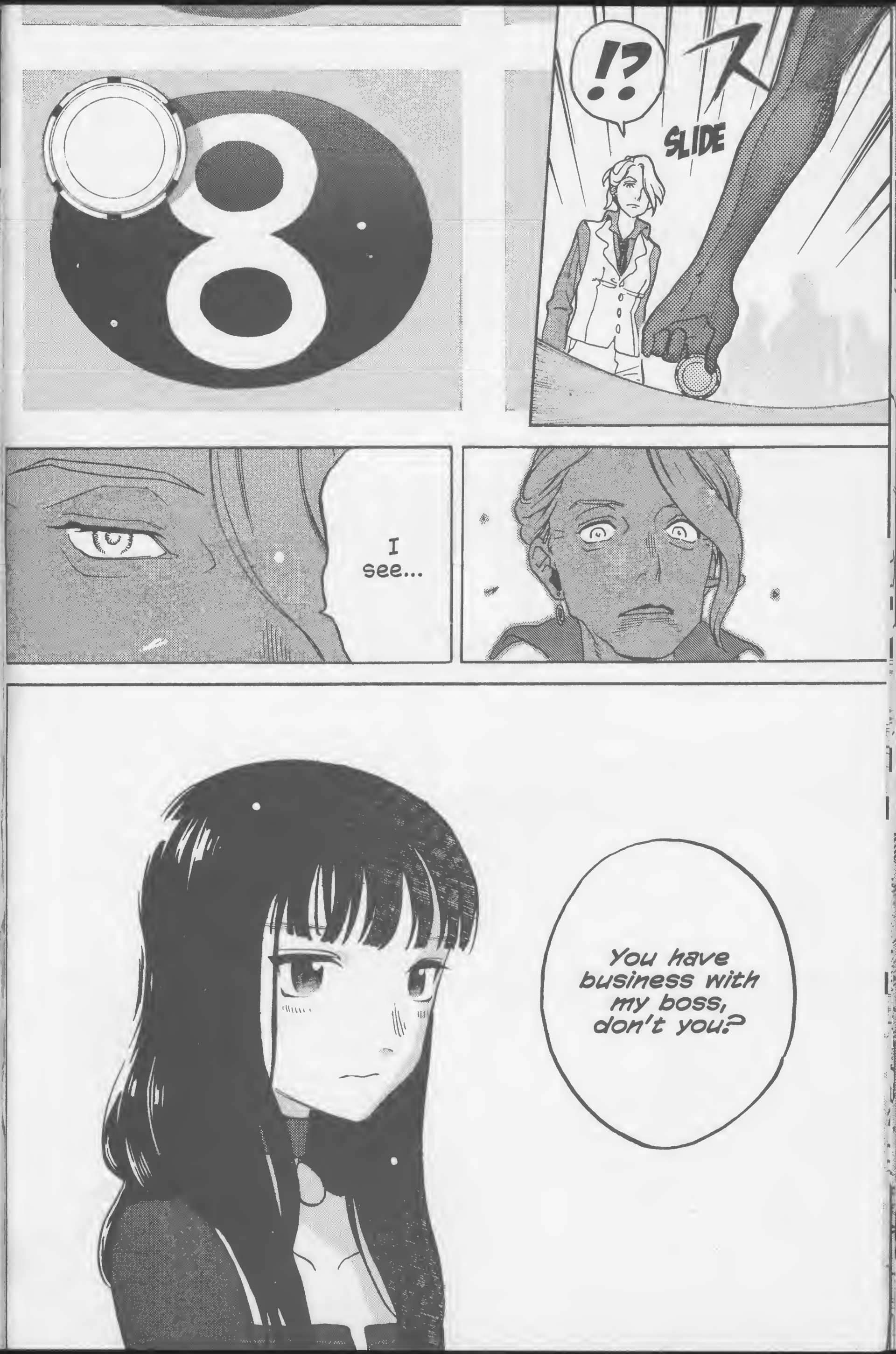

Can you put the ball wherever you want?
SMILE
The roulette wheel can control a person's fate. It was like magic to me.
My.
Looks like you won a lot, Belle.
Mom.
Thanks for winning it for me.
!
Time to go.
ザ
Because I wasn't a very lucky person.

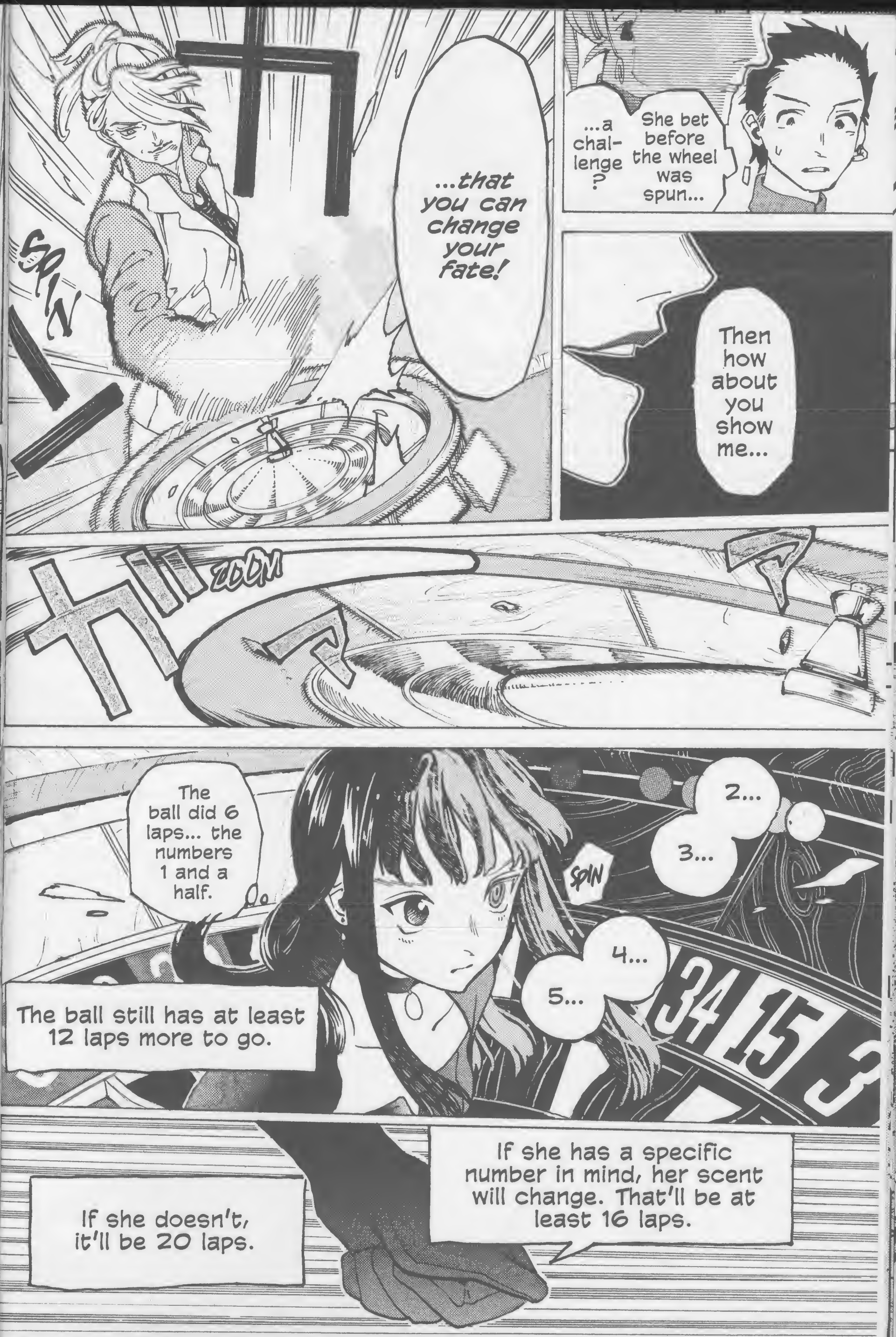

Congratulations.
OOOOOHH
You're on your own now.
I became a spinner and had the ability to control others' fates.
If I didn't like them, I'd make them lose.
I was pleased that I...
...had a talent I could use.
However...
We don't need you anymore.
What?

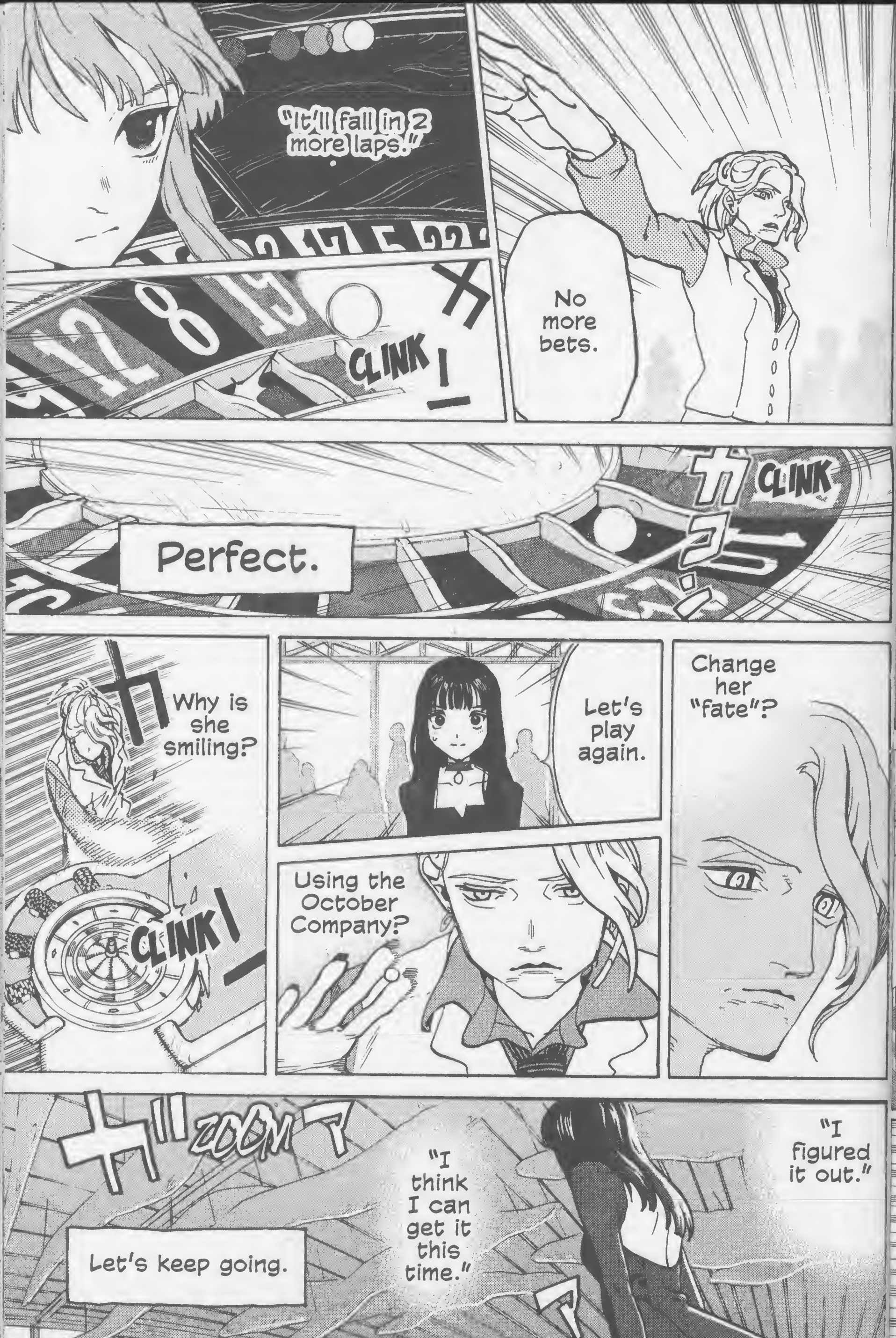

SPIN
I don't like this girl who has such big expectations!
I won't let her win so easily!
SPIN
Do you...
...really want money that badly?
ZOOM
...
I'm not interested in money.
ZOOM
Then why did you come here?
I came to change my fate.
Your fate?

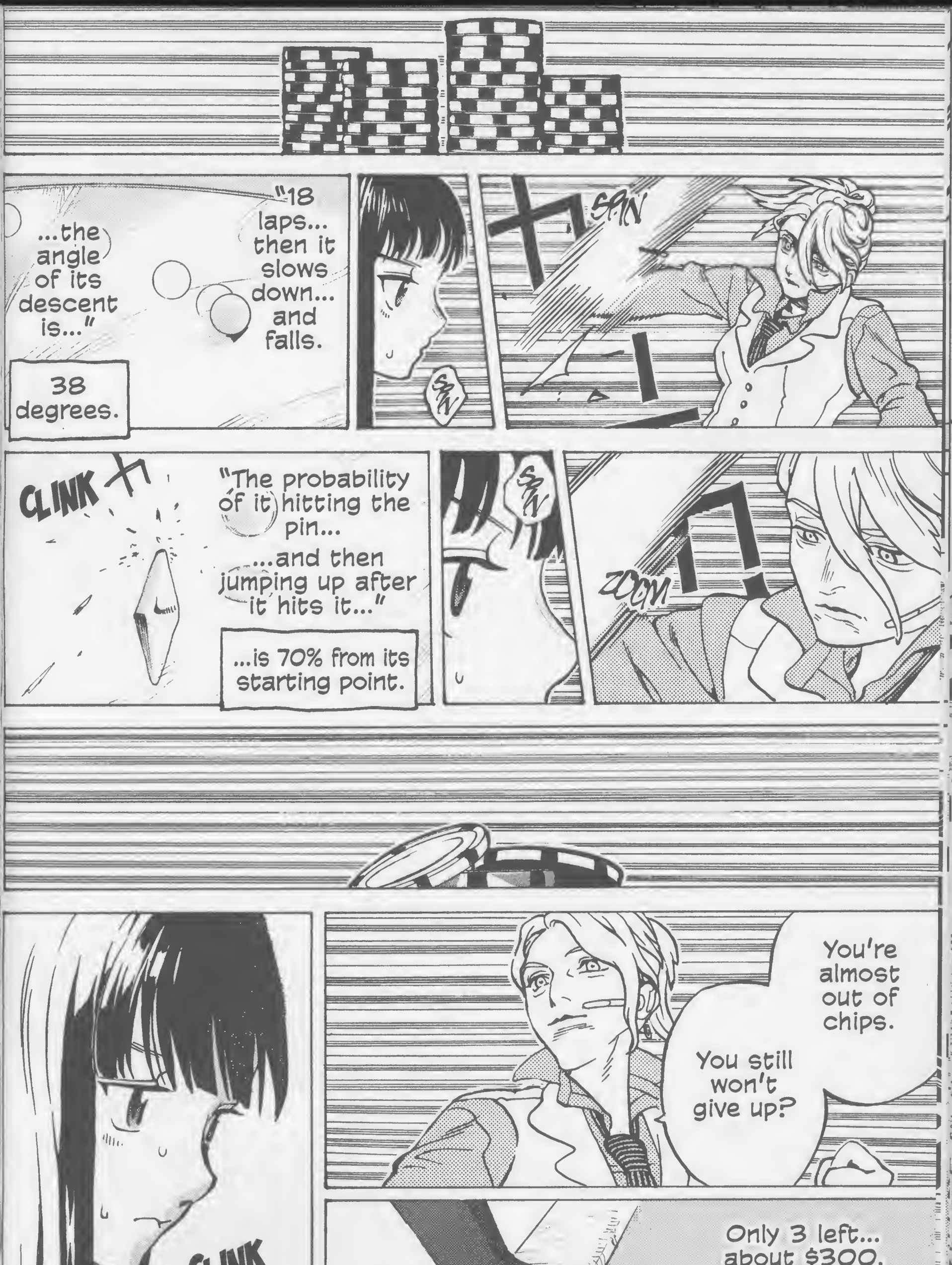

Why?
I love roulette...
I know everything about it!
Because you're too good.
A spinner who can control the balls at will can't be trusted by a casino.
Even though I could control others' fates with the roulette wheel, I couldn't control my own.
I want to buy your talent.
But I couldn't leave roulette.
Because I was proud of my abilities.
But I don't think of the roulette wheel as magic anymore.
So...

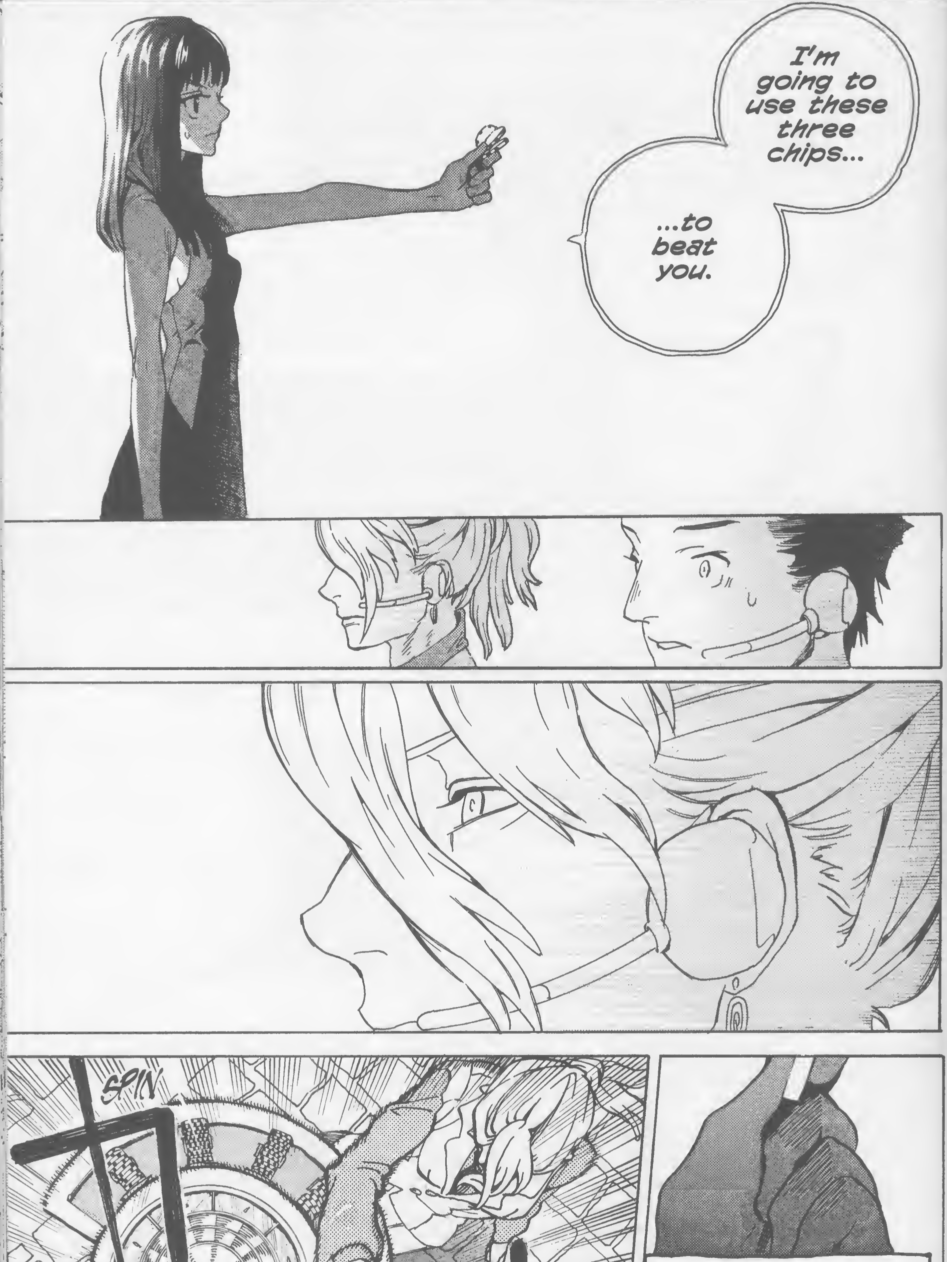

Hmm...
CLINK
Close...
Do you think a roulette wheel can change your fate?
I could change your fate for you.
There's a reason why I want to change it myself.

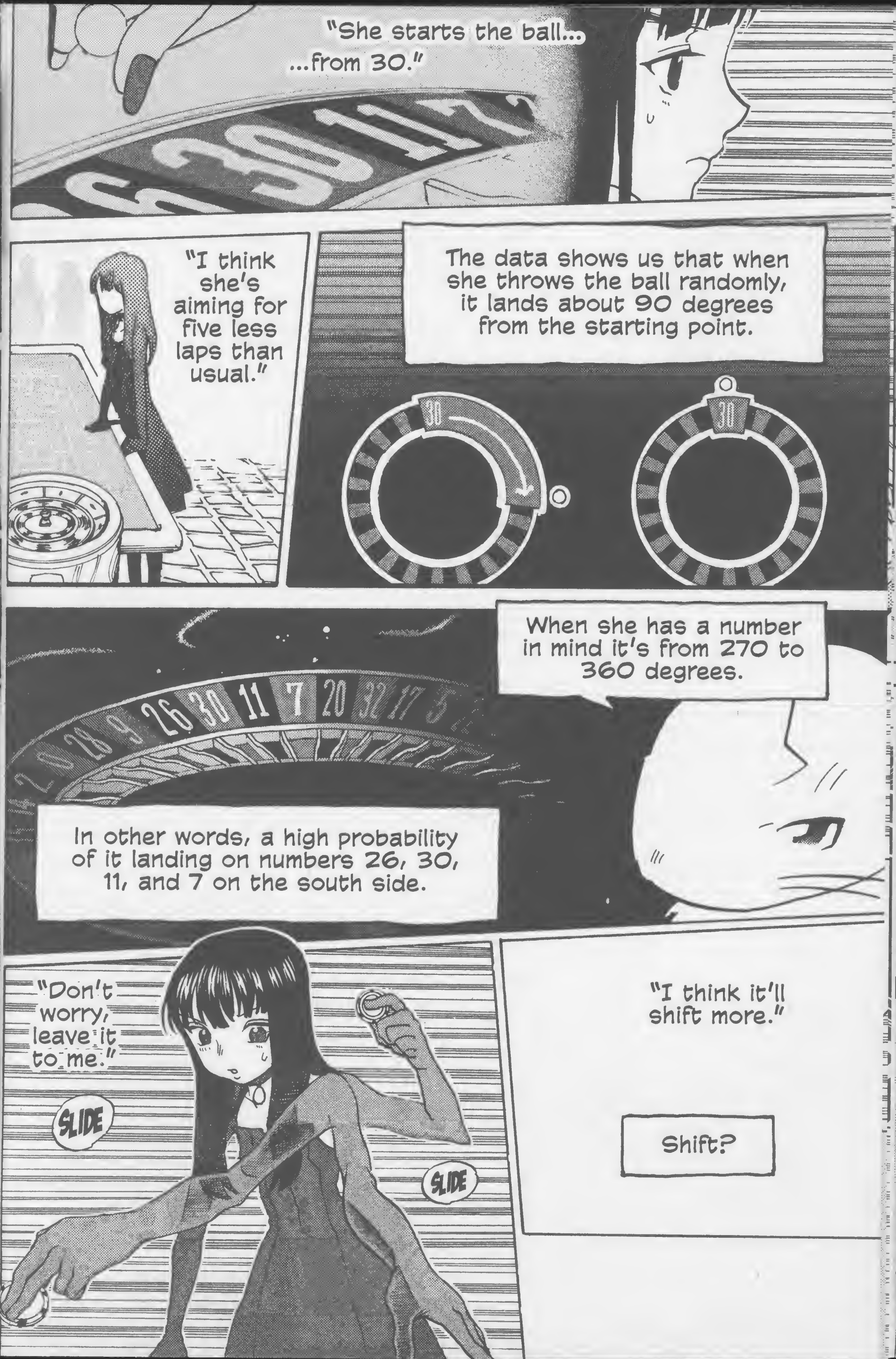

!?
ス
SLIDE
I see...
You have business with my boss, don't you?

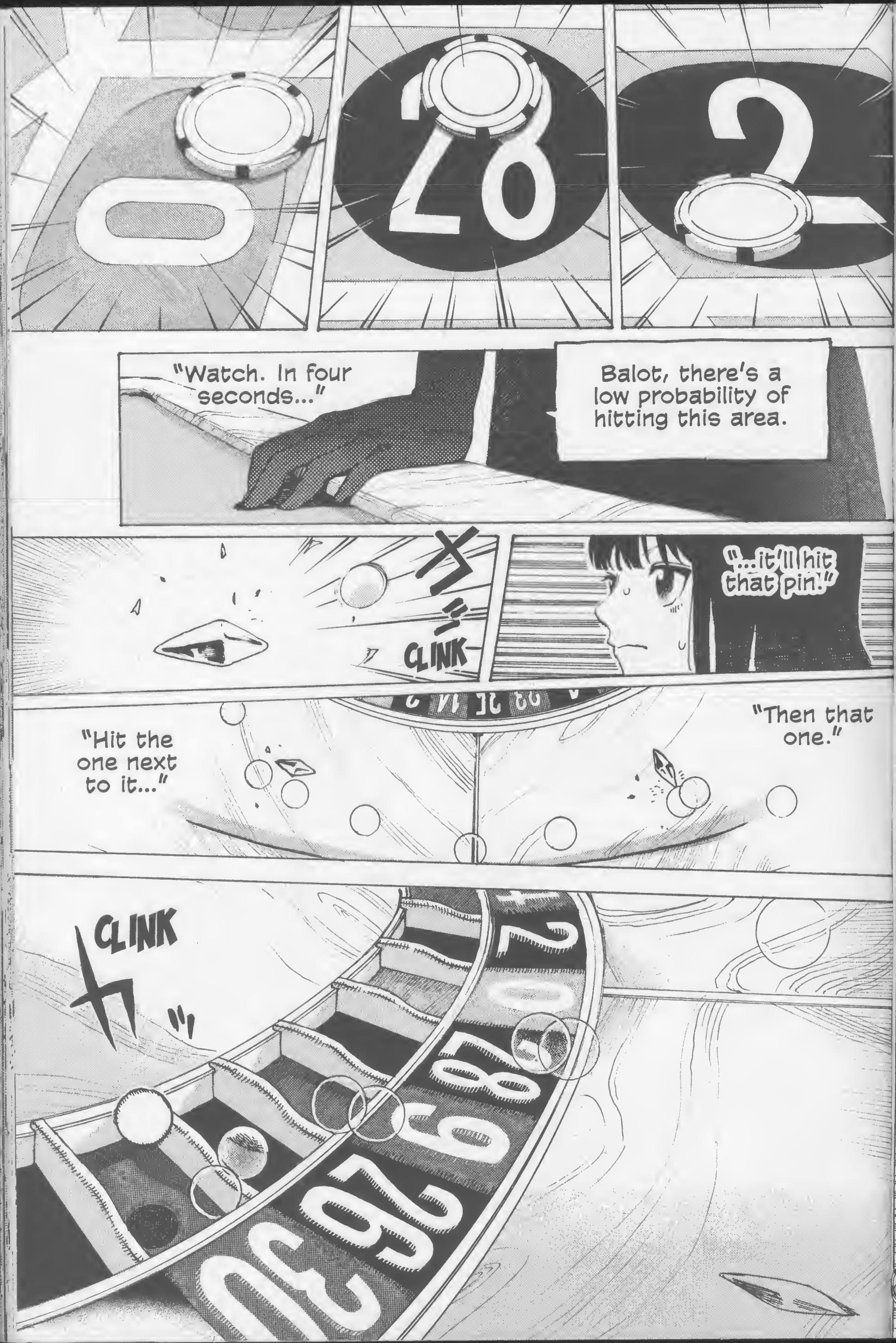

She bet before the wheel was spun...
...a challenge?
Then how about you show me...
...that you can change your fate!
SPIN
ZOOM
2...
3...
4...
5...
SPIN
The ball did 6 laps... the numbers 1 and a half.
The ball still has at least 12 laps more to go.
If she has a specific number in mind, her scent will change. That'll be at least 16 laps.
If she doesn't, it'll be 20 laps.

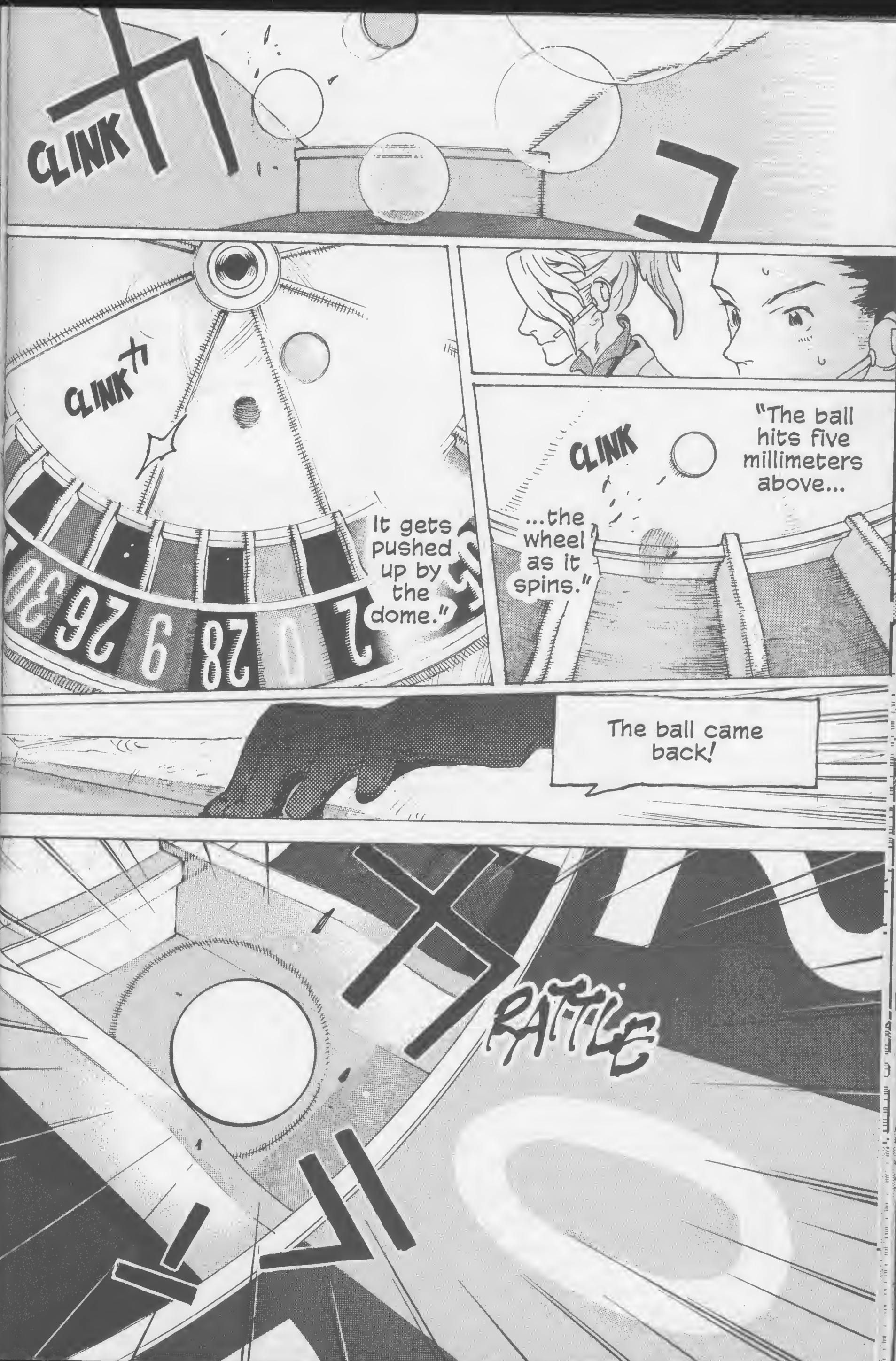

No more bets.
"It'll fall in 2 more laps."
CLINK
CLINK
Perfect.
Change her "fate"?
Let's play again.
Using the October Company?
Why is she smiling?
CLINK
"I figured it out."
"I think I can get it this time."
ZOOM
Let's keep going.

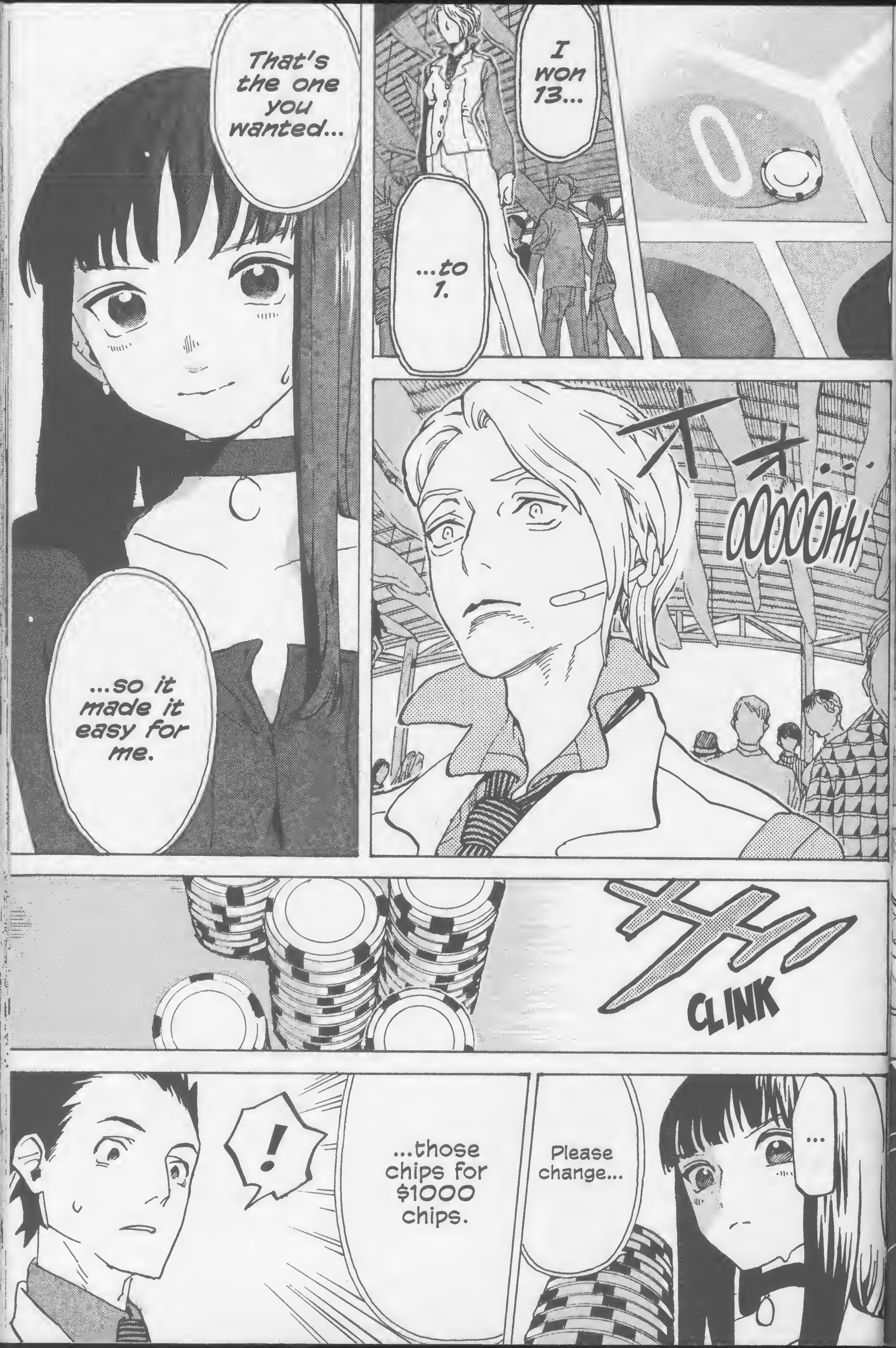

SPIN
SPIN
"18 laps... then it slows down... and falls.
...the angle of its descent is..."
38 degrees.
ZOOM
SPIN
"The probability of it hitting the pin...
...and then jumping up after it hits it..."
CLINK
...is 70% from its starting point.
You're almost out of chips.
You still won't give up?
CLINK
Only 3 left... about $300.

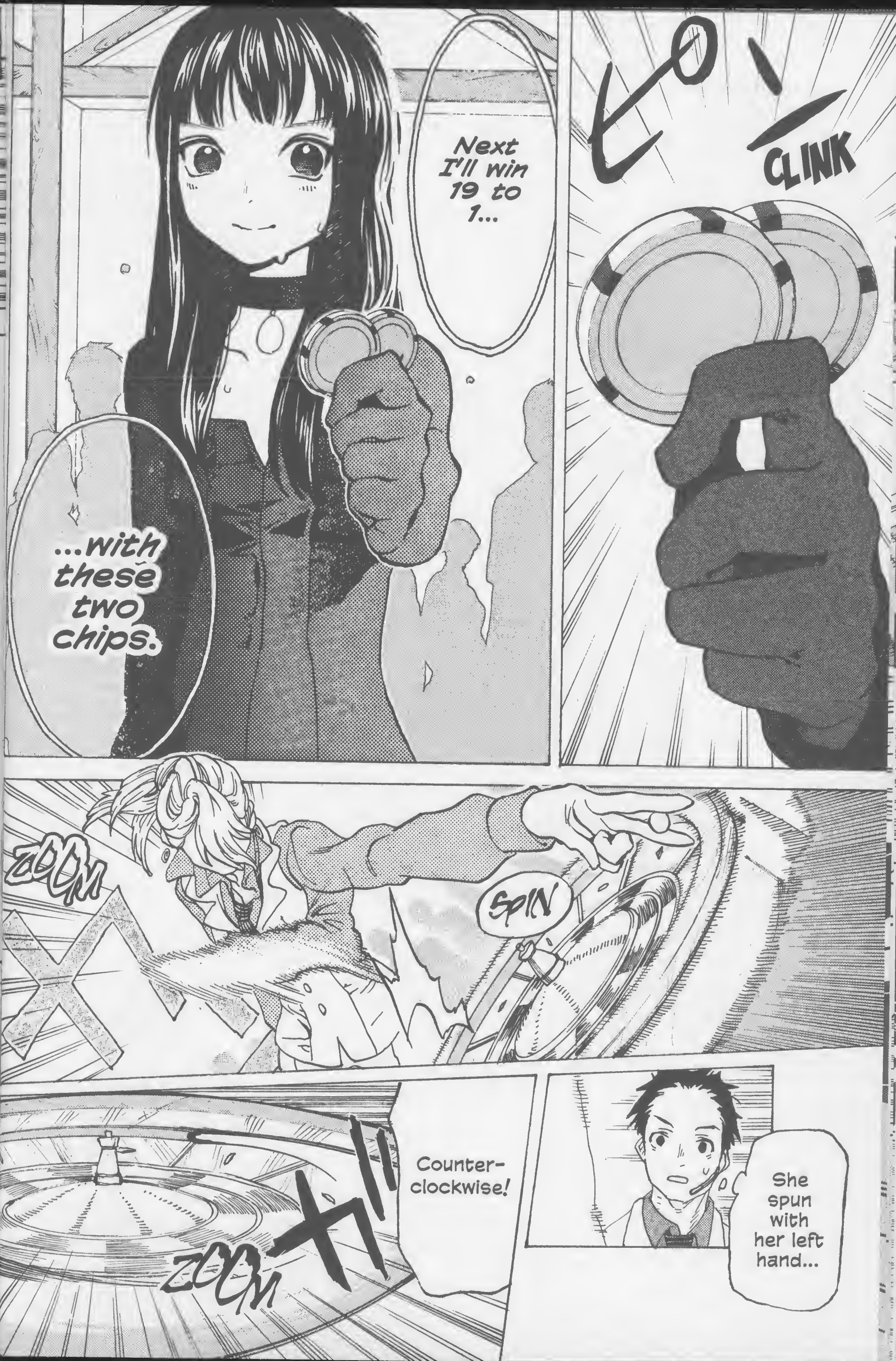

I'm going to use these three chips...
...to beat you.
Her scent changed.
SPIN

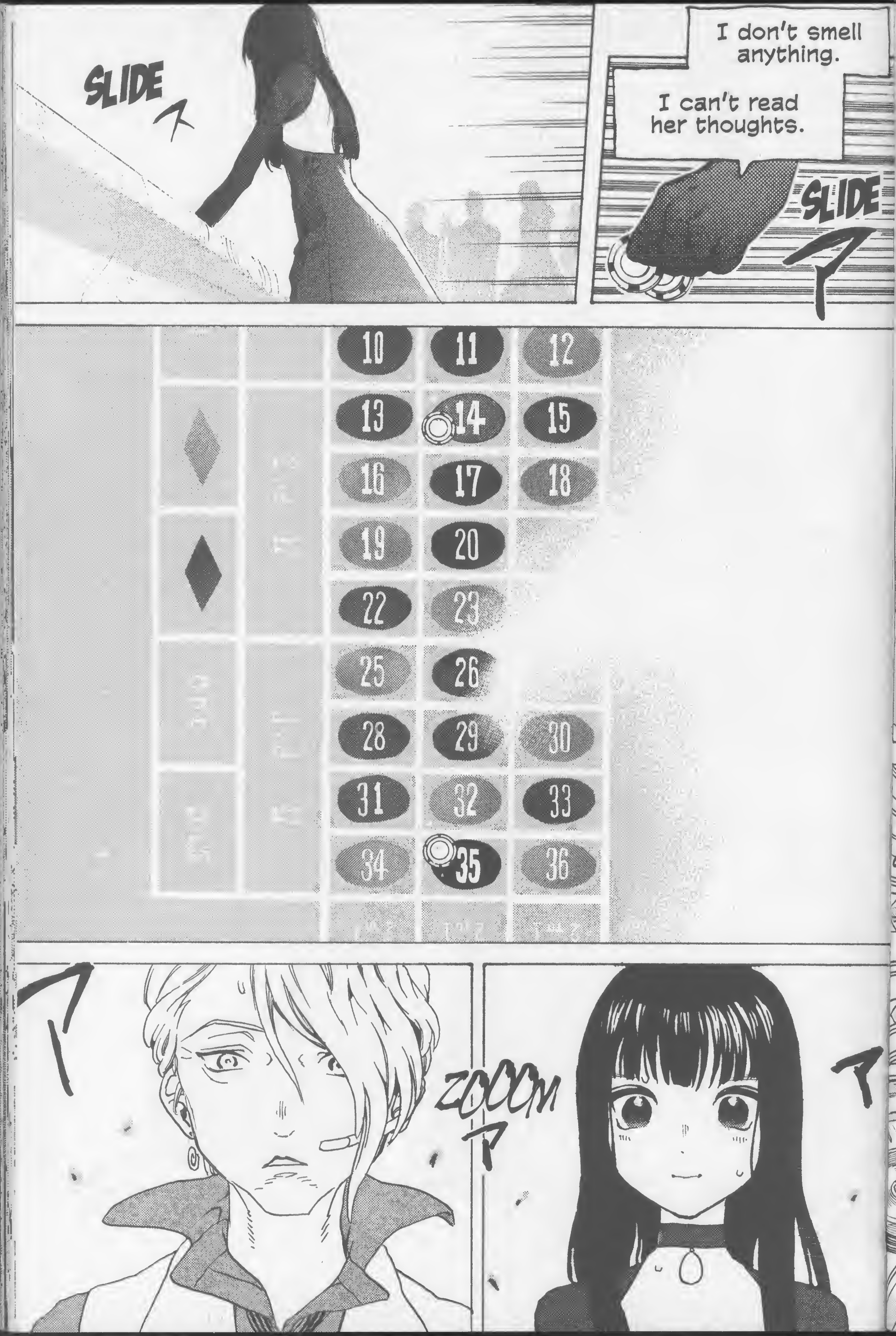

"She starts the ball... ...from 30."
30
"I think she's aiming for five less laps than usual."
The data shows us that when she throws the ball randomly, it lands about 90 degrees from the starting point.
30
30
When she has a number in mind it's from 270 to 360 degrees.
2 0 28 9 26 30 11 7 20 32 17 5
In other words, a high probability of it landing on numbers 26, 30, 11, and 7 on the south side.
"I think it'll shift more."
Shift?
"Don't worry, leave it to me."
SLIDE
SLIDE

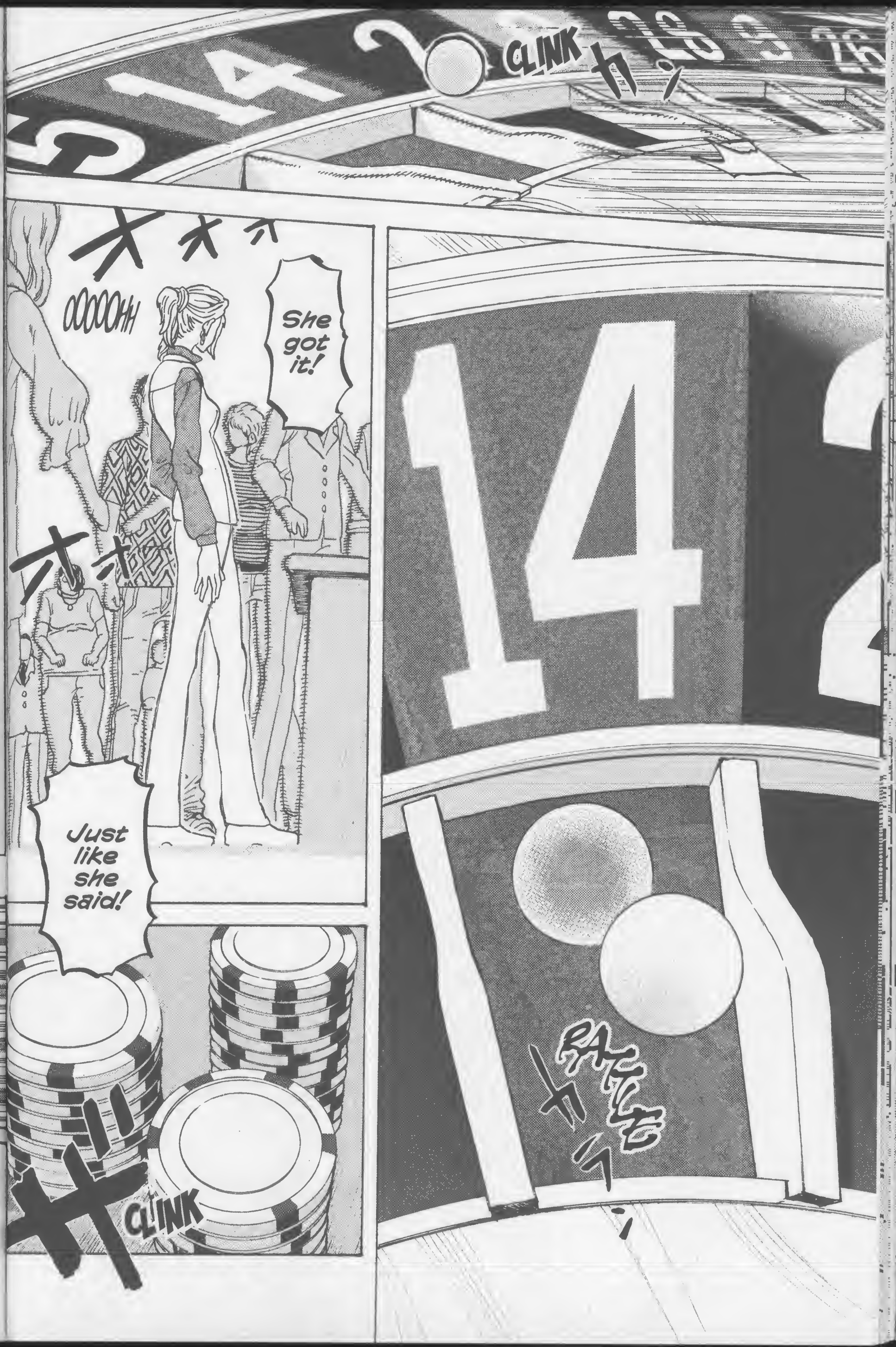

2
28
0
Balot, there's a low probability of hitting this area.
"Watch. In four seconds..."
"...it'll hit that pin."
CLINK
"Then that one."
"Hit the one next to it..."
CLINK

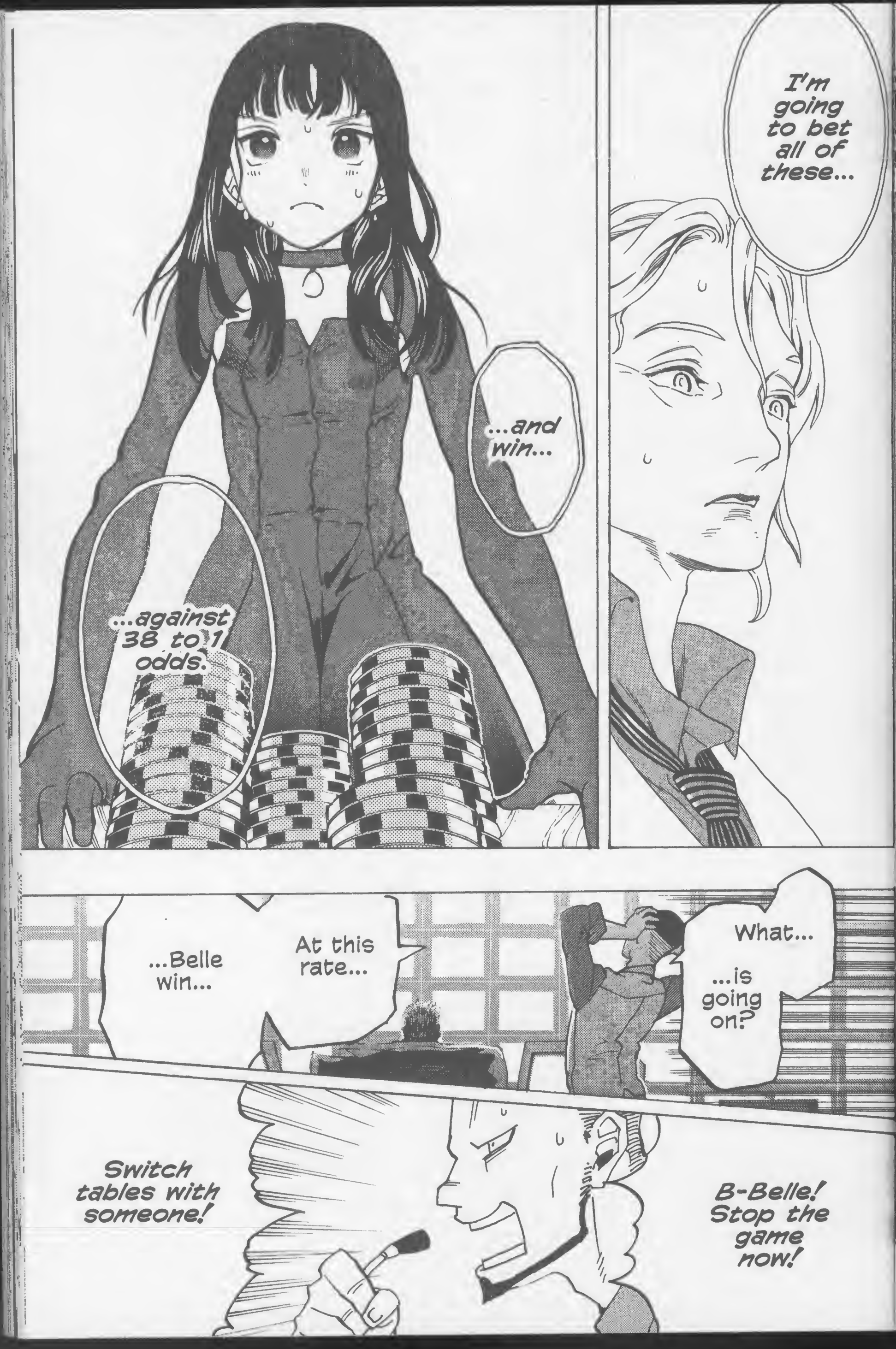

CLINK
"The ball hits five millimeters above...
CLINK
...the wheel as it spins."
CLINK
It gets pushed up by the dome."
30 26 9 28 0 2
The ball came back!
RATTLE

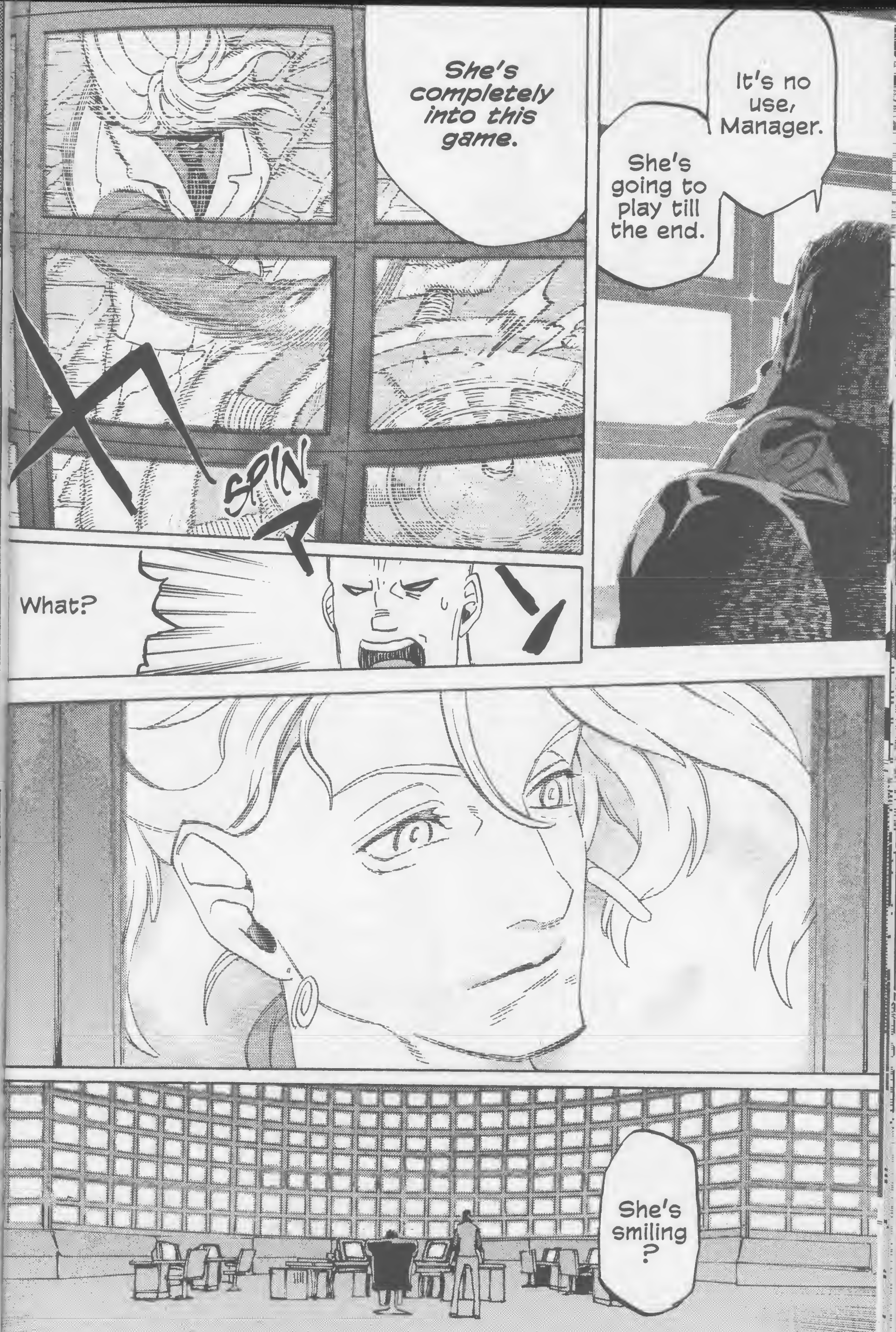

I won 13...
...to 1.
That's the one you wanted...
...so it made it easy for me.
OOOOOHH
CLINK
...
Please change...
...those chips for $1000 chips.
!

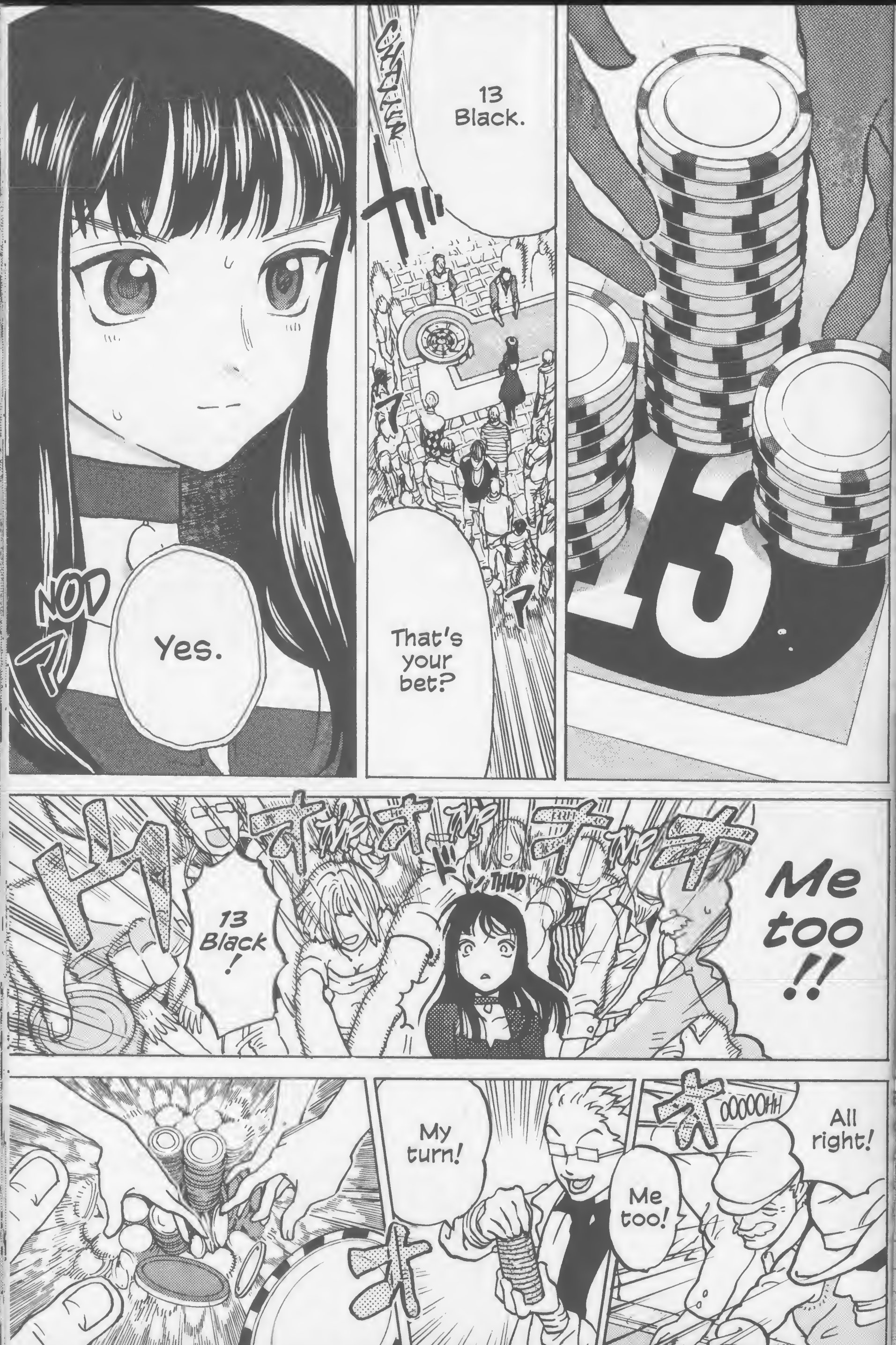

CLINK
Next I'll win 19 to 1...
...with these two chips.
ZOOOM
SPIN
She spun with her left hand...
Counter-clockwise!
ZOOM

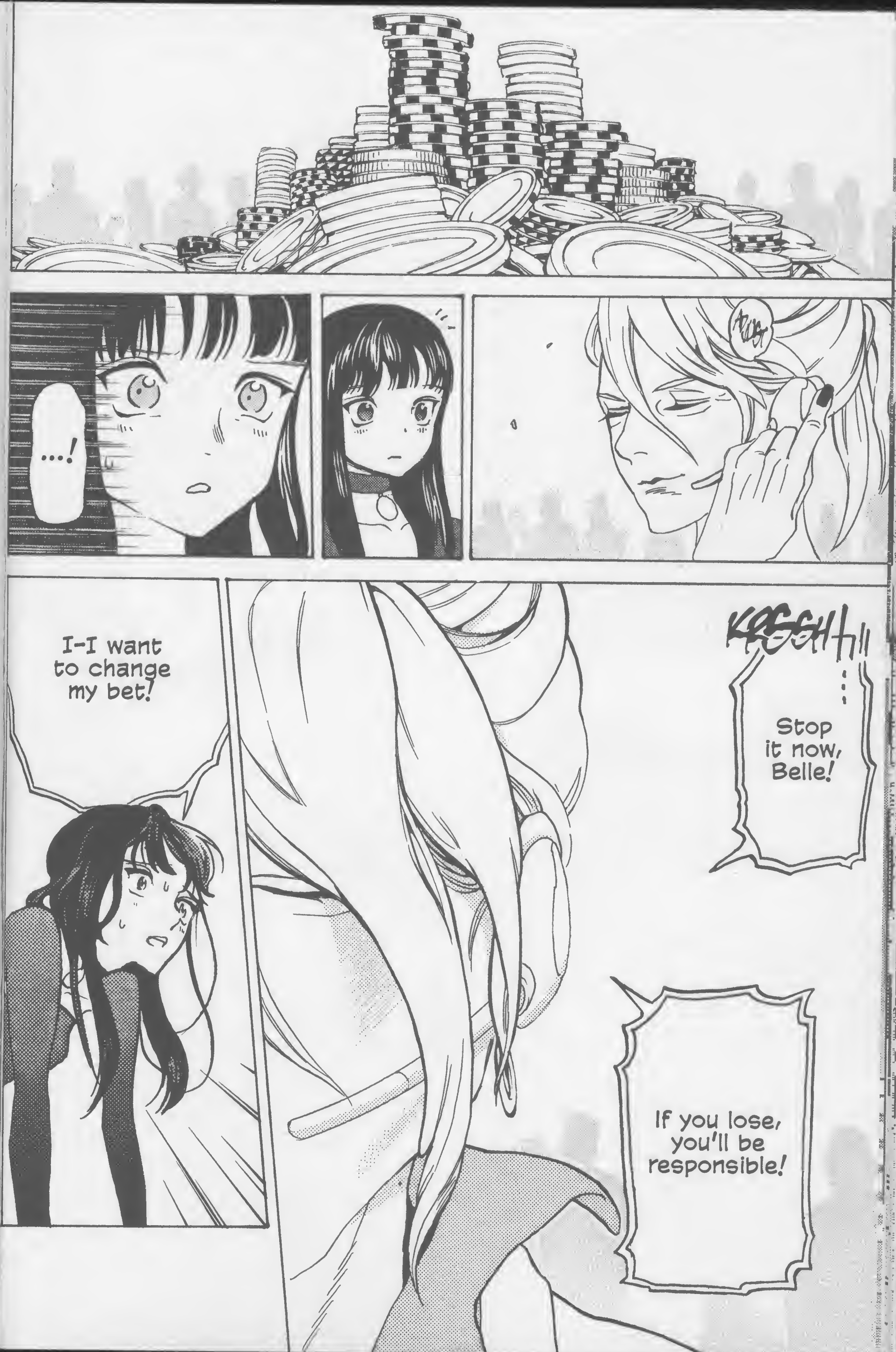

I don't smell anything.
I can't read her thoughts.
SLIDE
SLIDE
10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 22 23 25 26 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36
ZOOOM

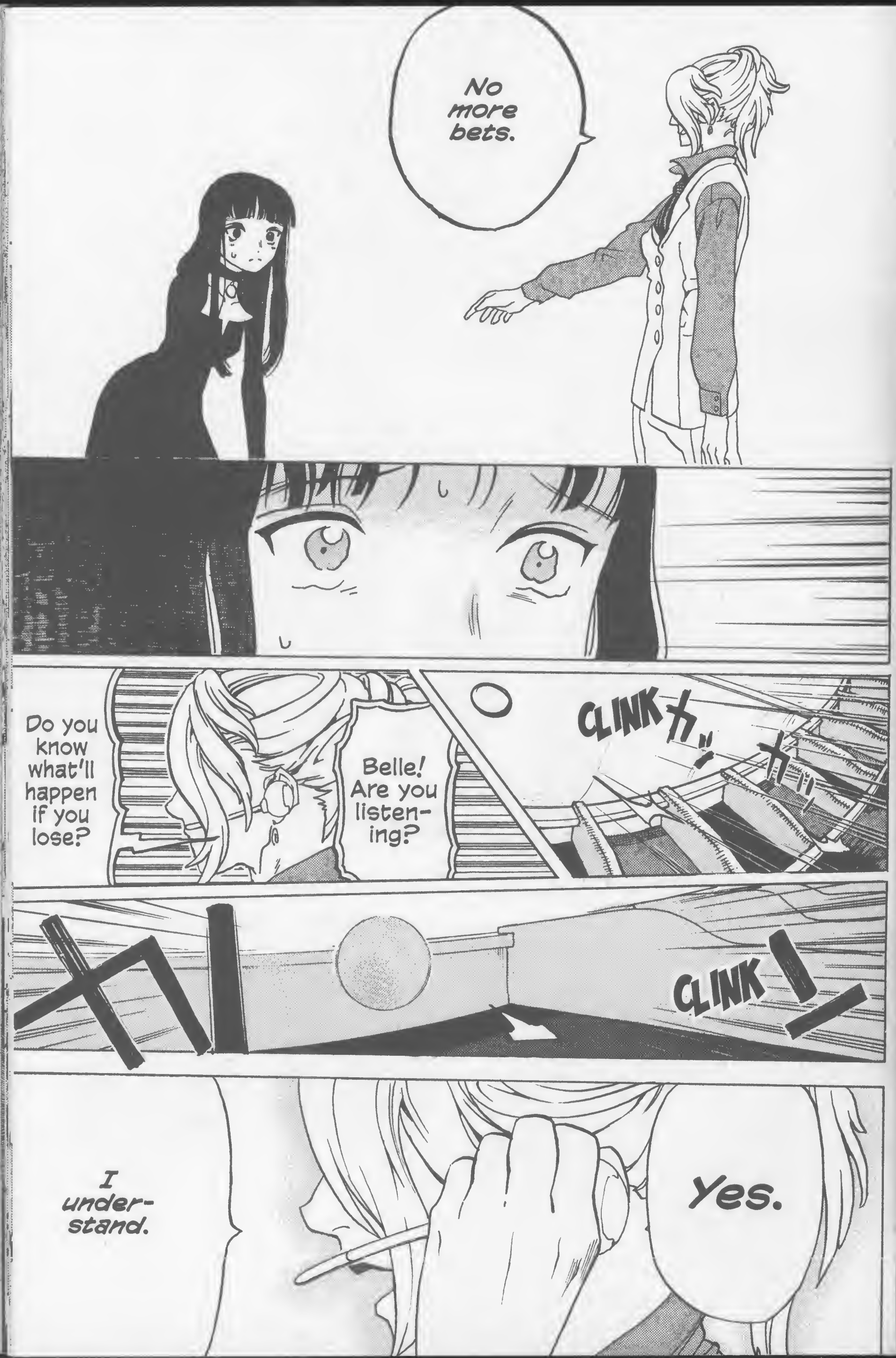

CLINK
RATTLE
She got it!
OOOOOHH
Just like she said!
CLINK

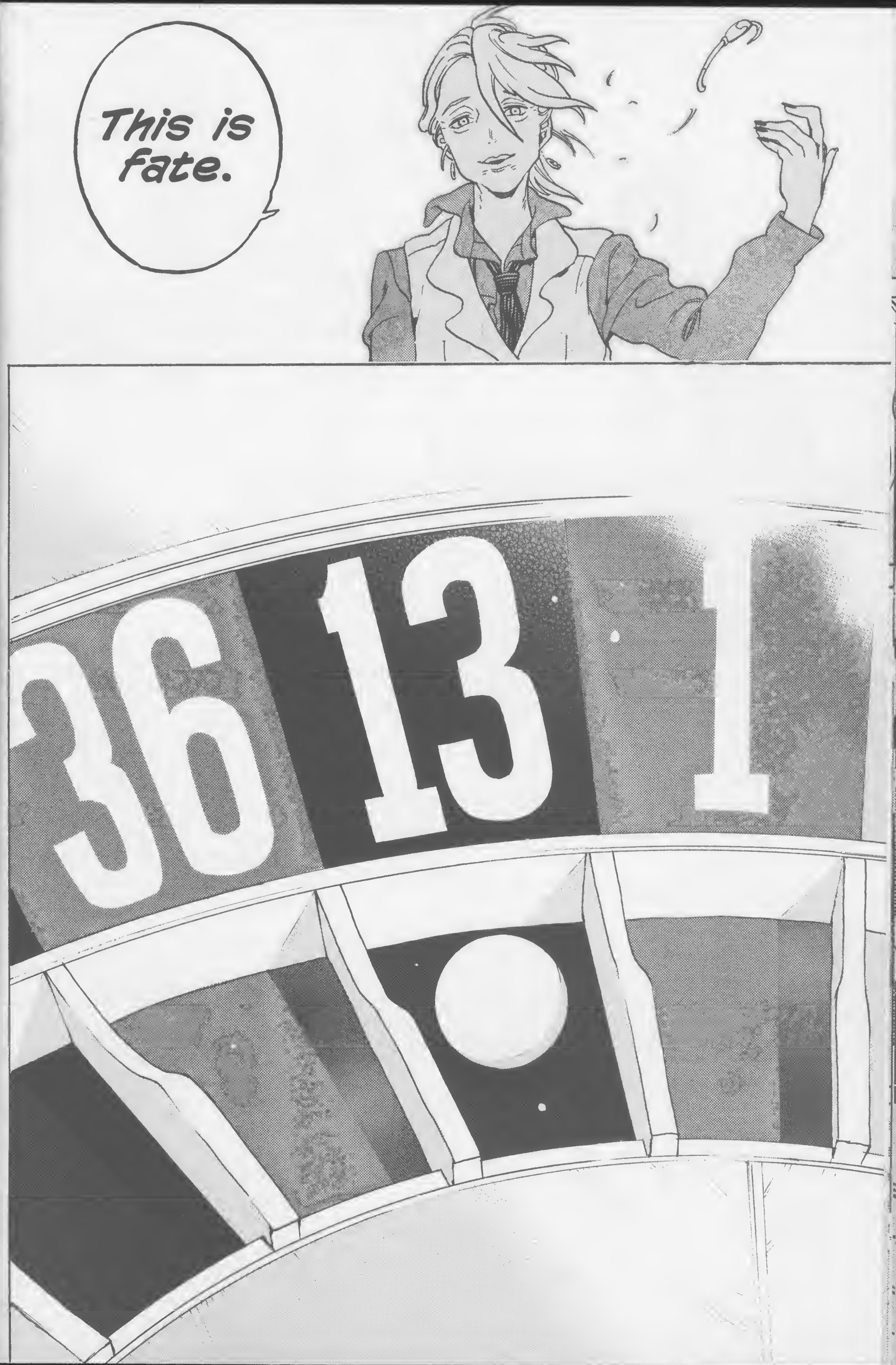

I'm going to bet all of these...
...and win...
...against 38 to 1 odds.
What... ...is going on?
At this rate...
...Belle win...
B-Belle! Stop the game now!
Switch tables with someone!

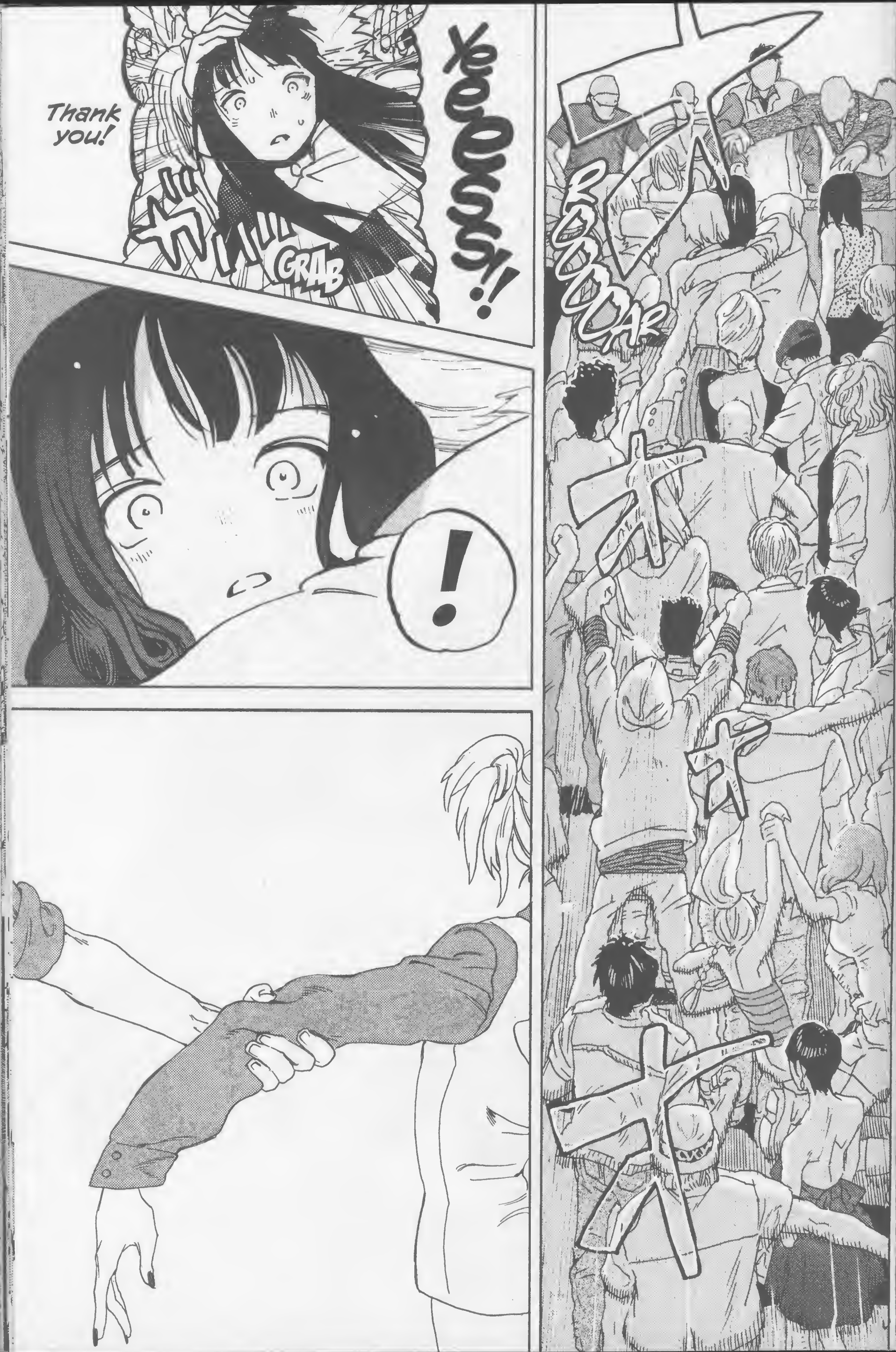

It's no use, Manager.
She's going to play till the end.
She's completely into this game.
SPIN
What?
She's smiling?

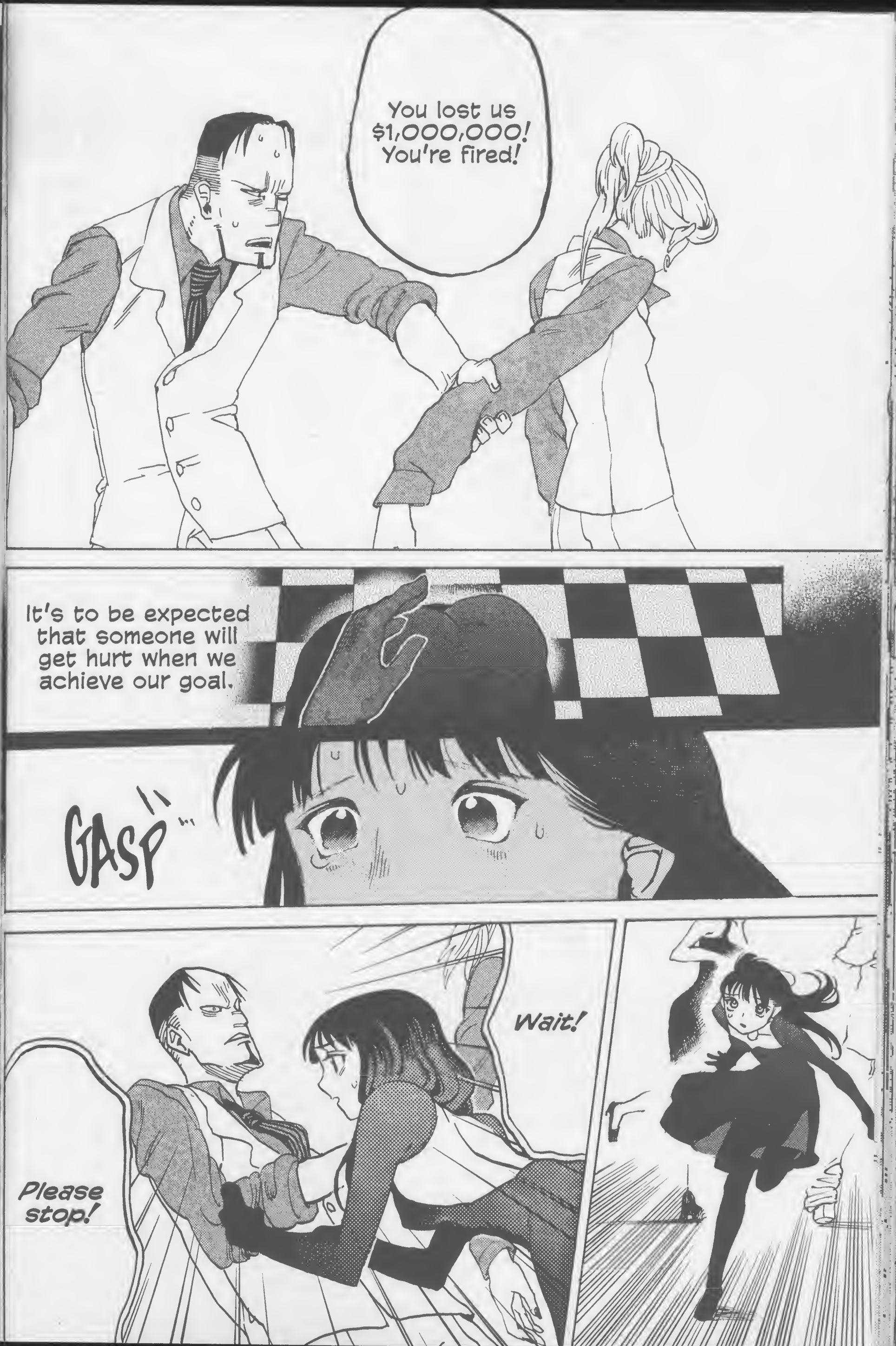

CHATTER
13 Black.
That's your bet?
NOD
Yes.
Me too!!
THUD
13 Black!
OOOOOHH
All right!
Me too!
My turn!

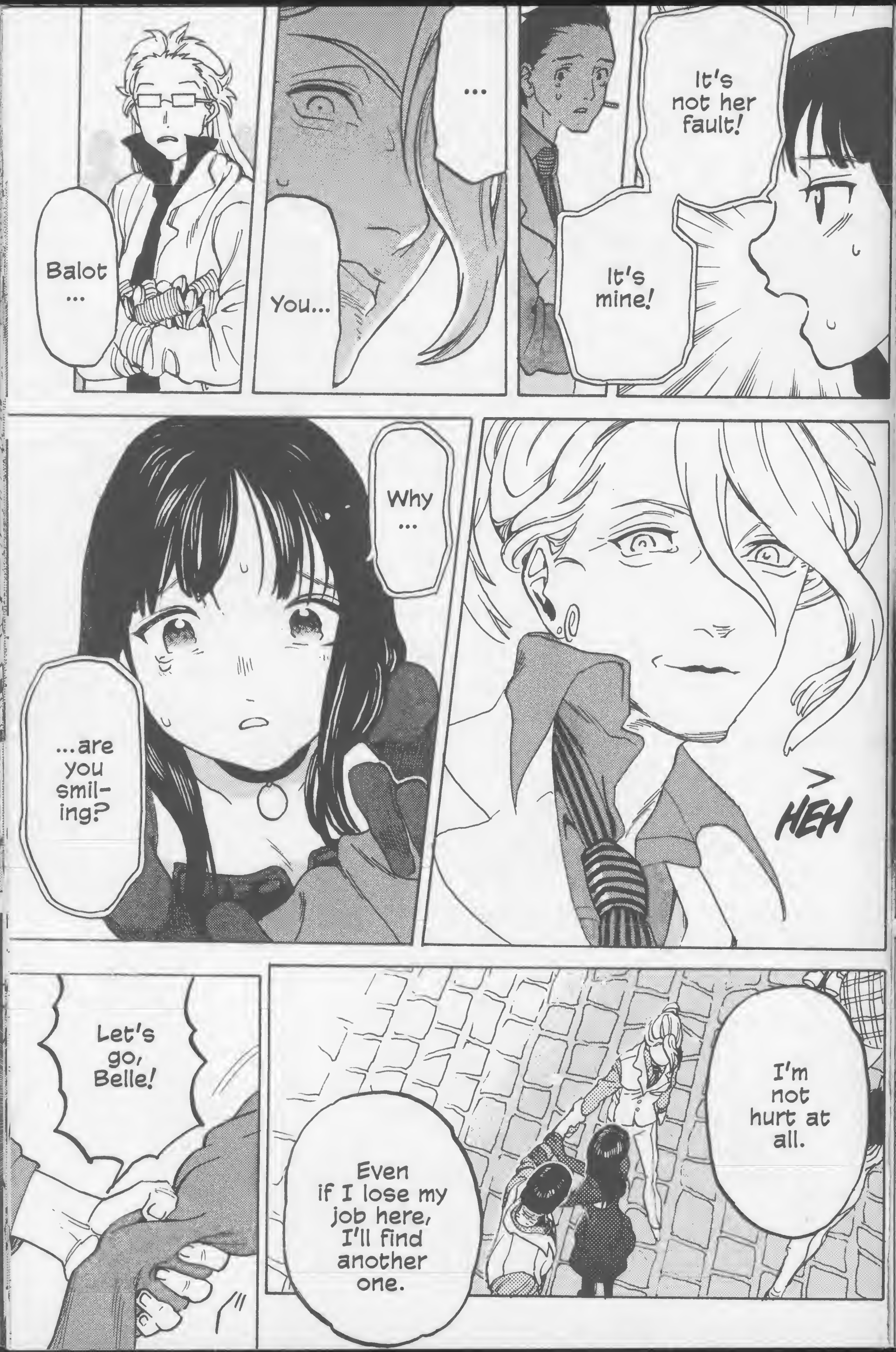

...!
KRSSH
Stop it now, Belle!
I-I want to change my bet!
If you lose, you'll be responsible!

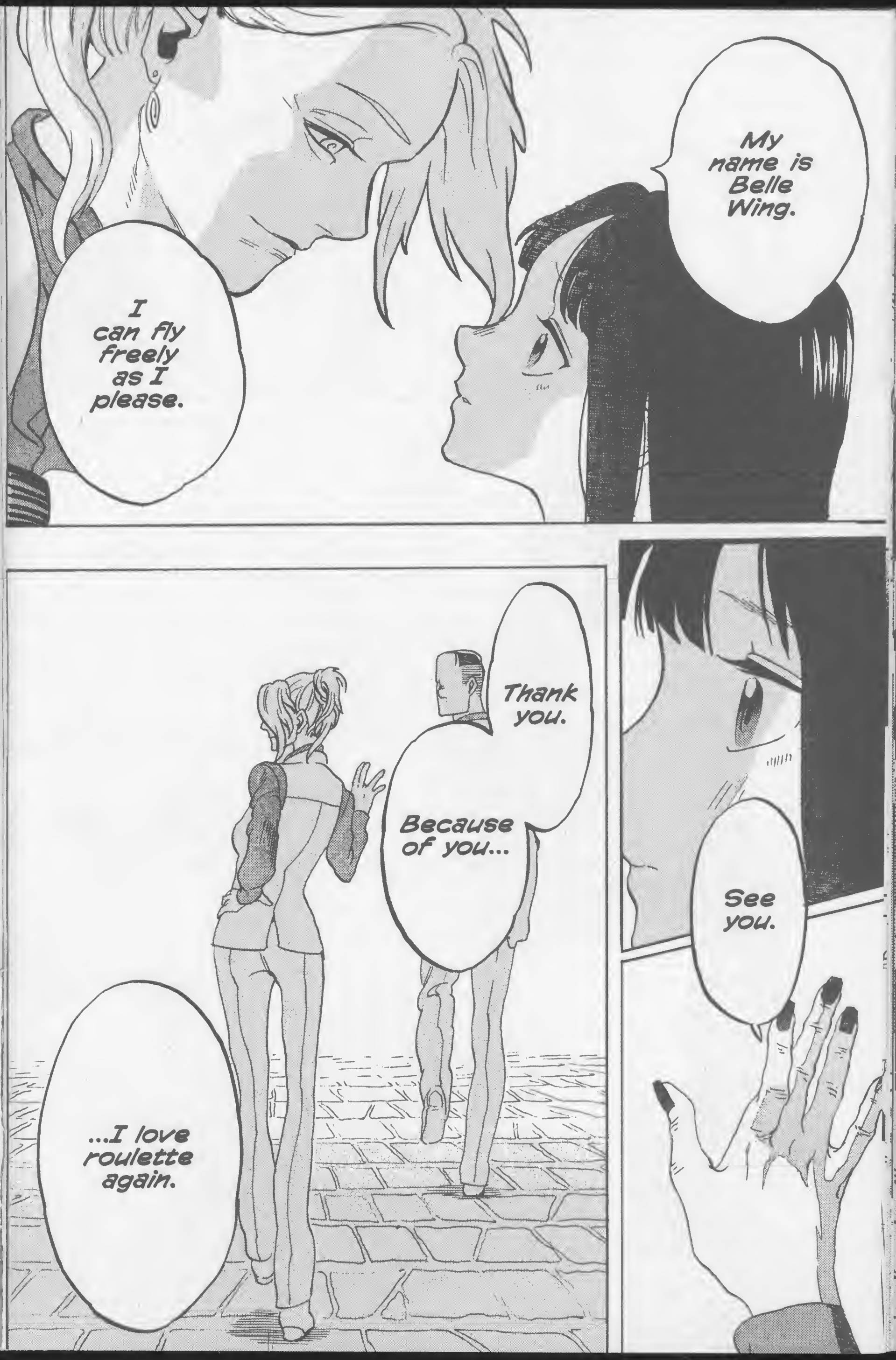

No more bets.
CLINK
Belle! Are you listening?
Do you know what'll happen if you lose?
CLINK
Yes.
I understand.

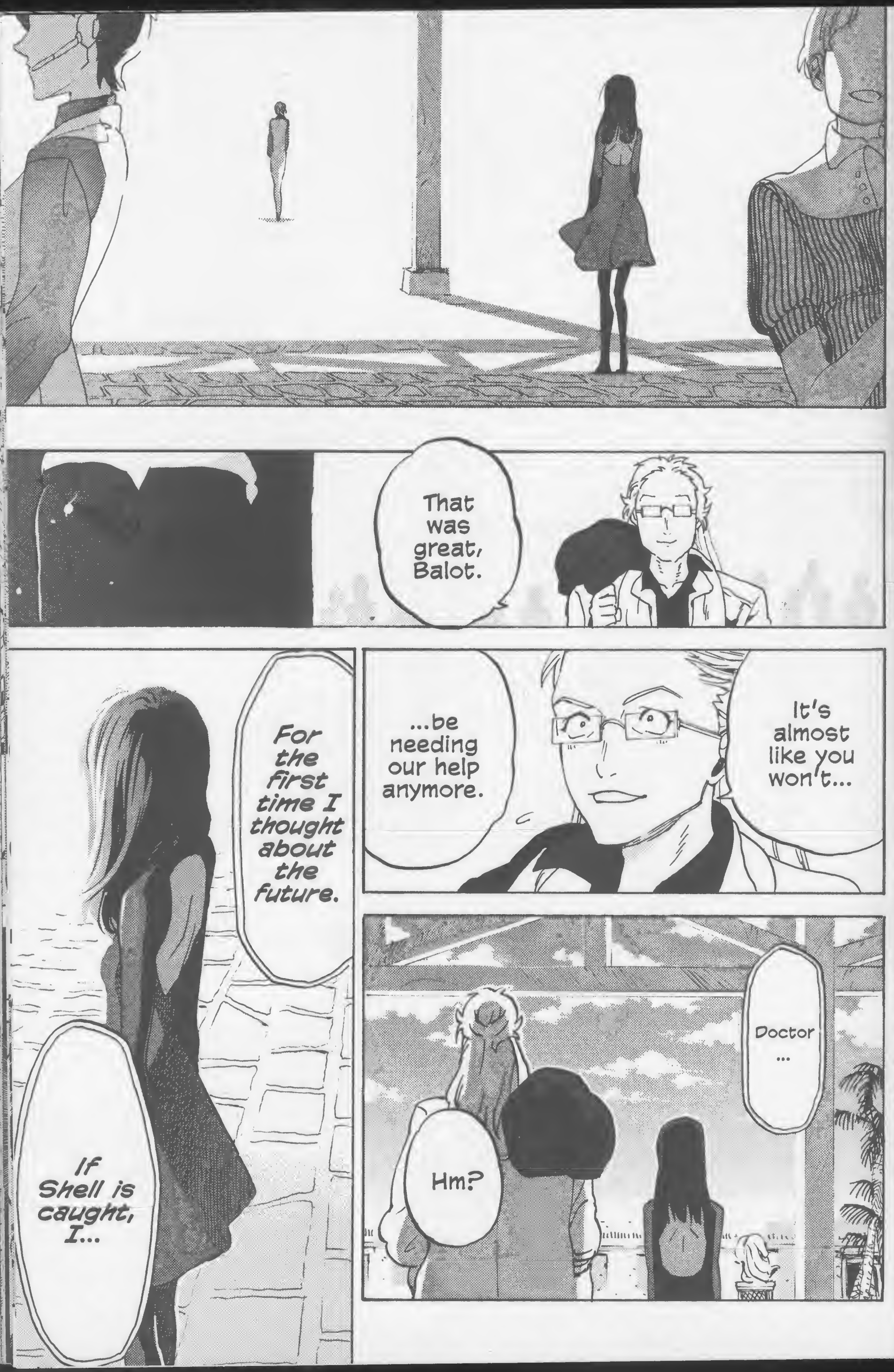

This is fate.

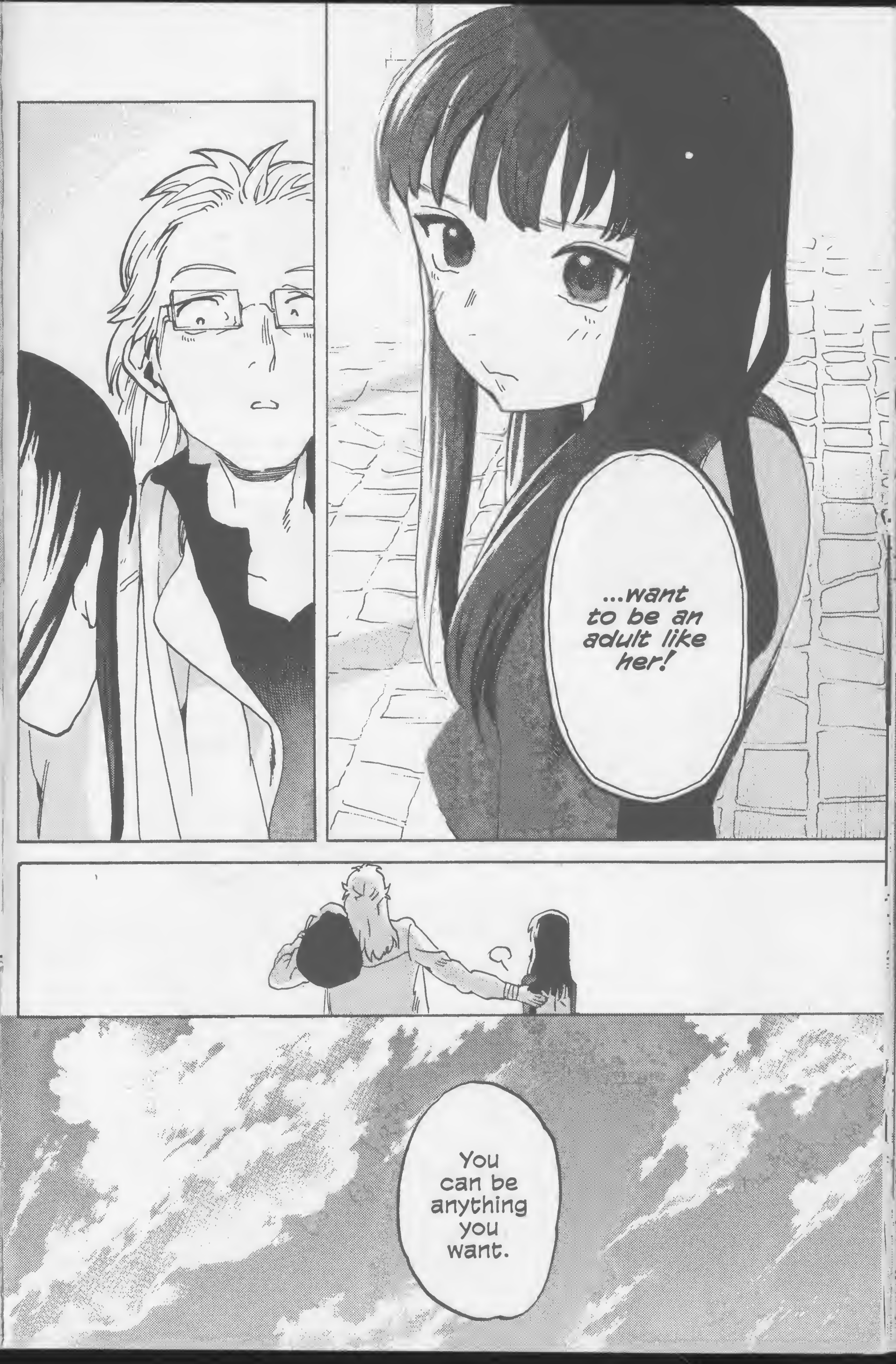

ROOOOAR
YEEESSS!!
GRAB
Thank you!
!


You lost us $1,000,000! You're fired!
It's to be expected that someone will get hurt when we achieve our goal.
GASP
Wait!
Please stop!


It's not her fault!
It's mine!
...
You...
Balot ...
Why ...
...are you smil-ing?
HEH
I'm not hurt at all.
Even if I lose my job here, I'll find another one.
Let's go, Belle!

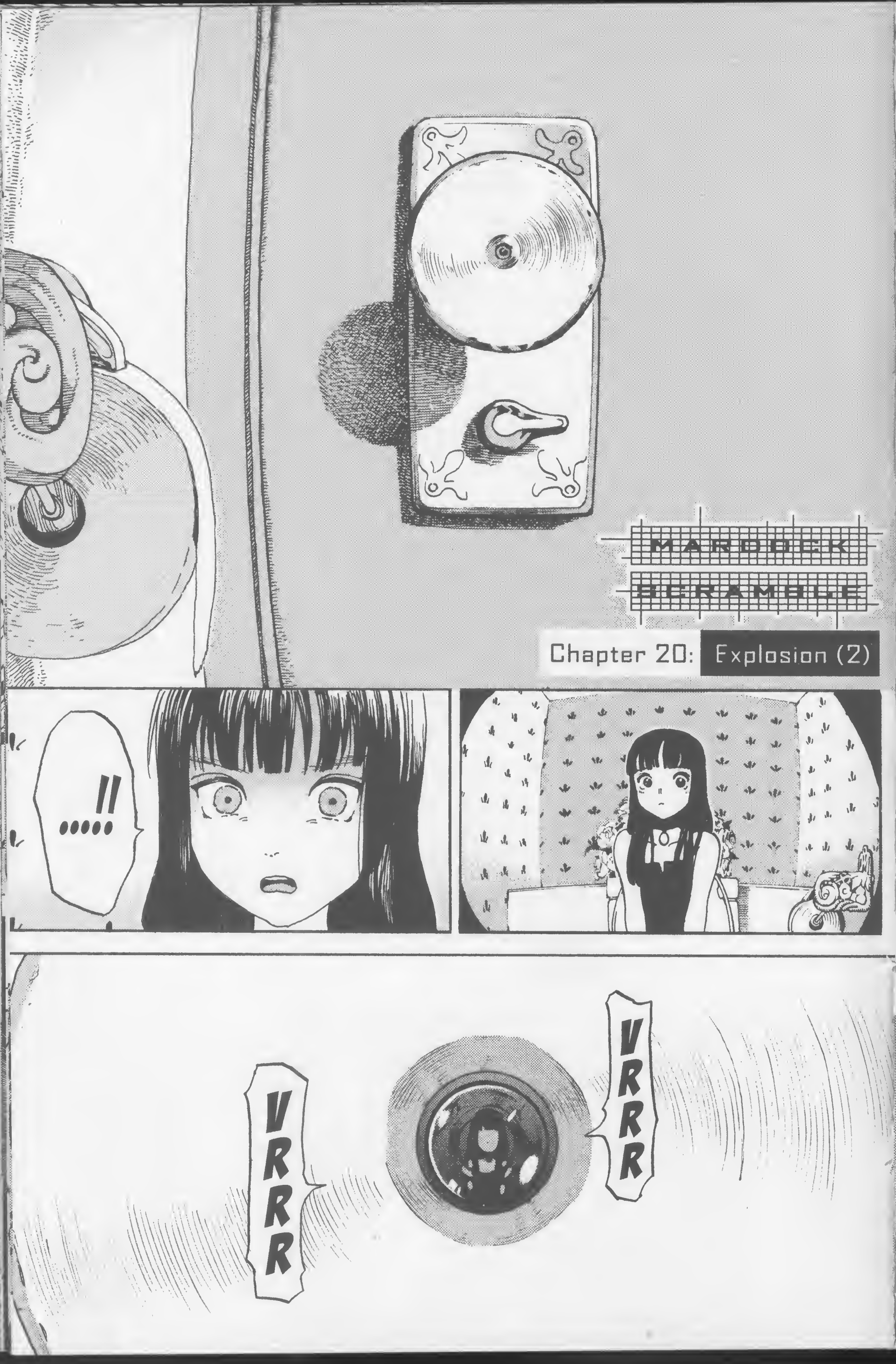

My name is Belle Wing.
I can fly freely as I please.
Thank you.
Because of you...
...I love roulette again.
See you.

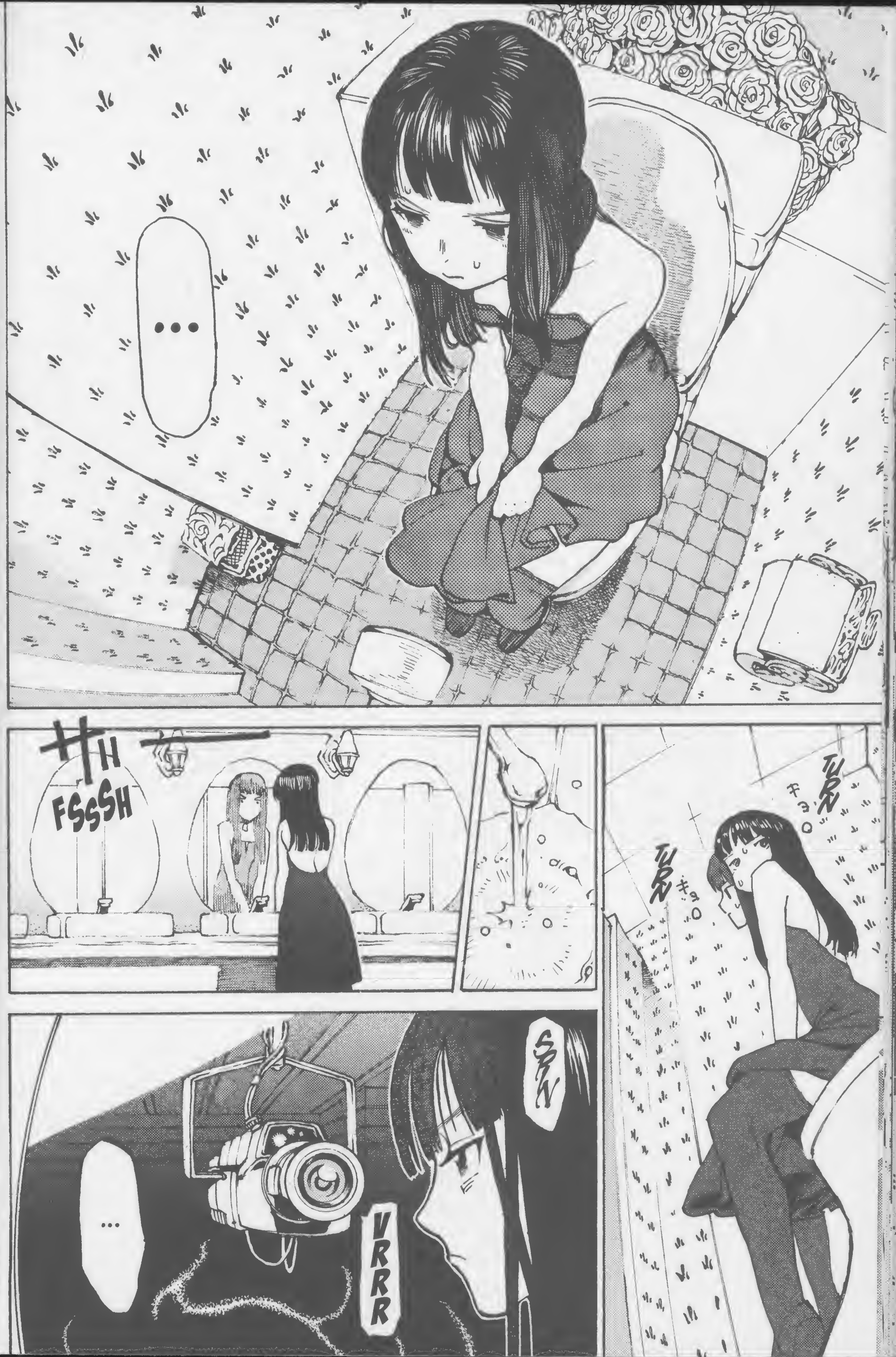

That was great, Balot.
It's almost like you won't...
...be needing our help anymore.
For the first time I thought about the future.
Doctor...
Hm?
If Shell is caught, I...

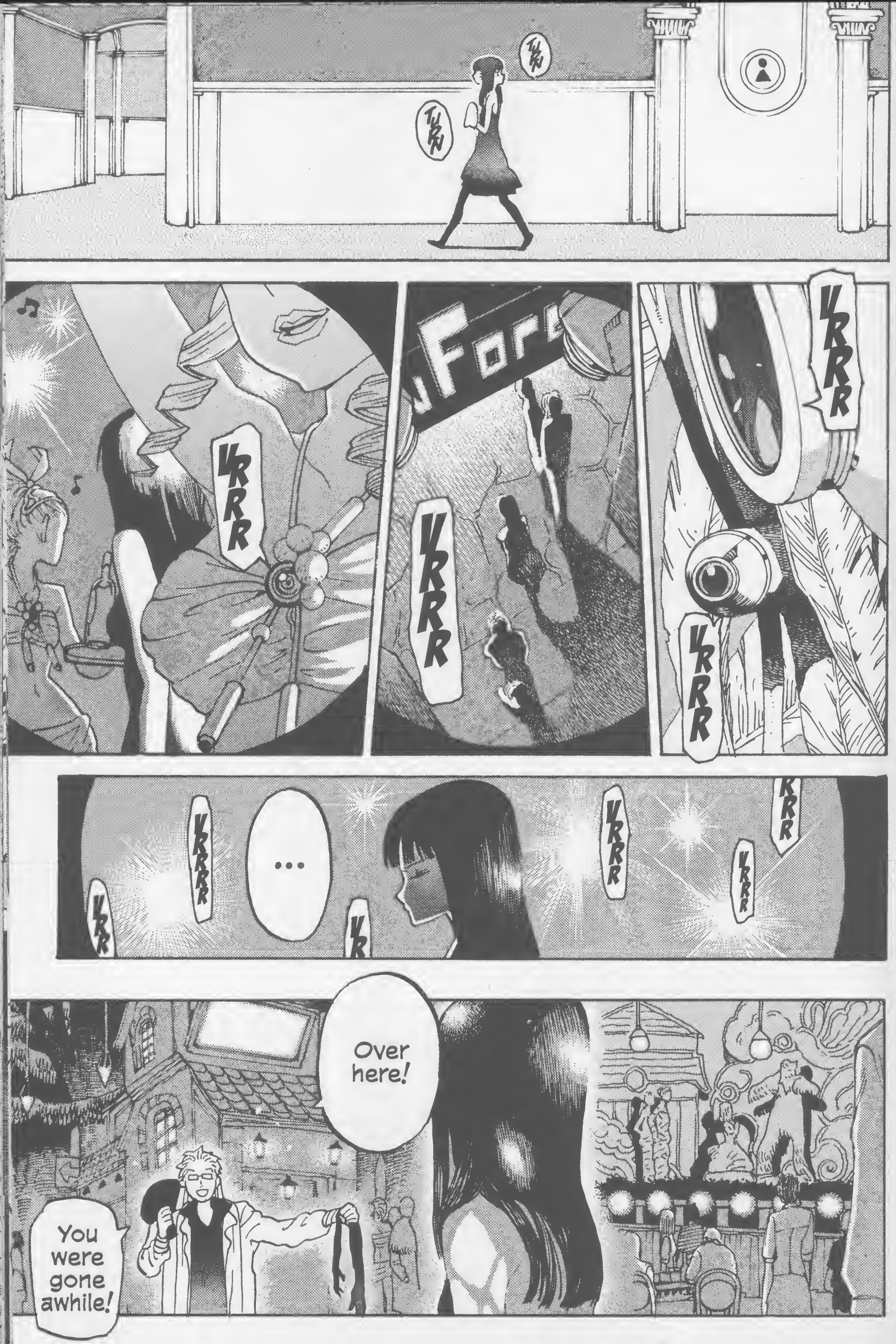

...want to be an adult like her!
You can be anything you want.

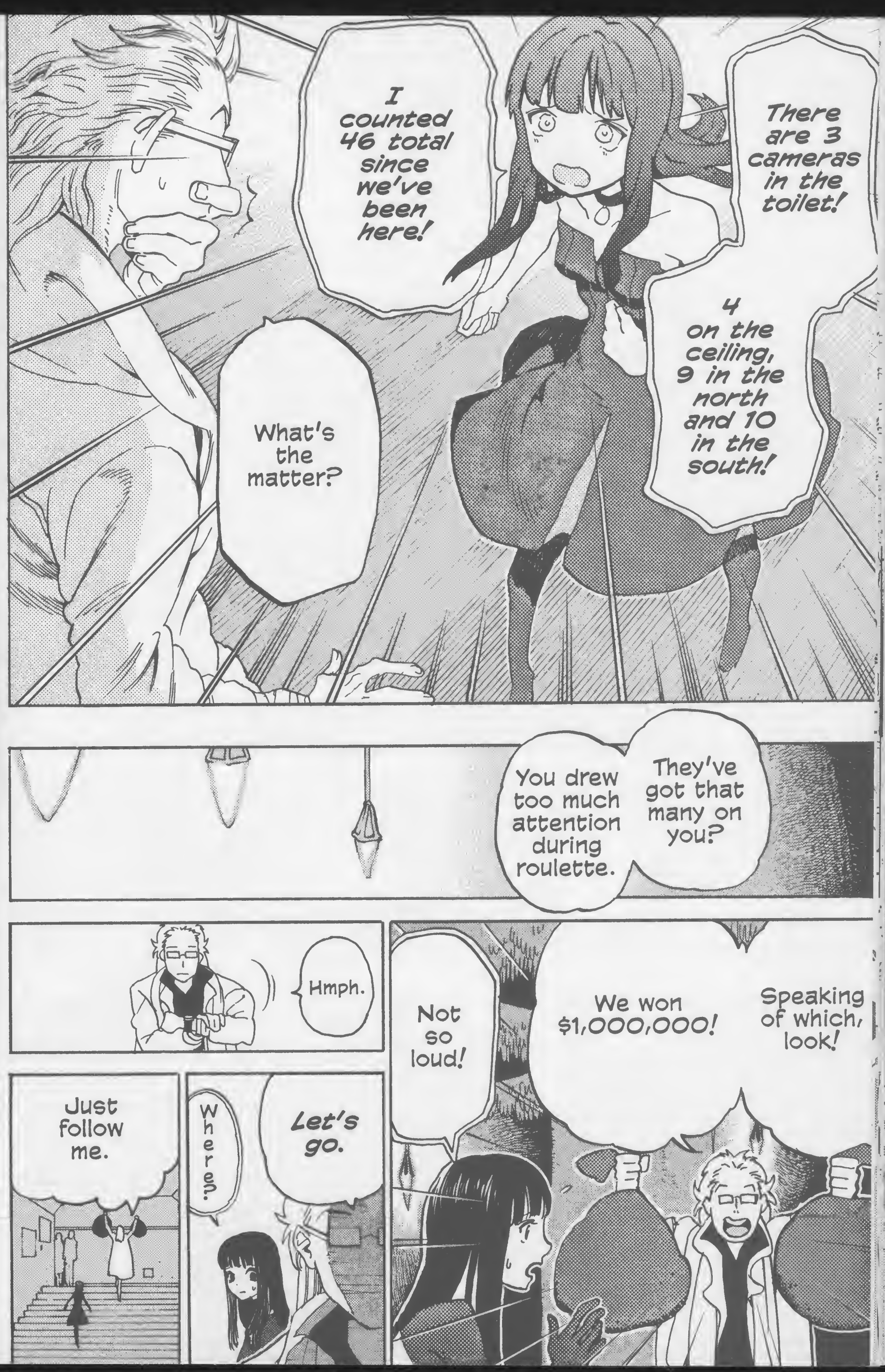
MARDOCK SCRAMBLE

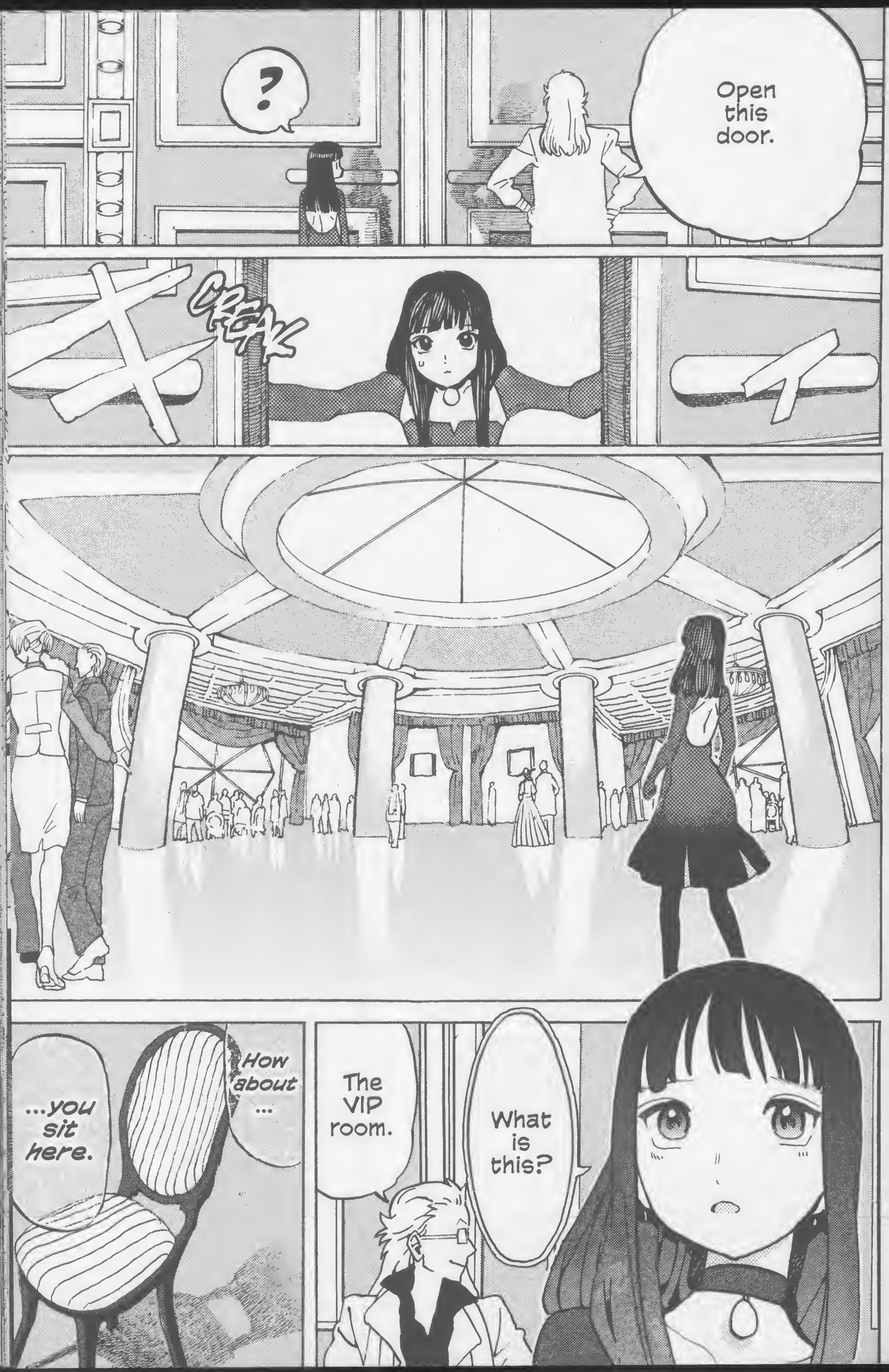
Chapter 20: Explosion (2)

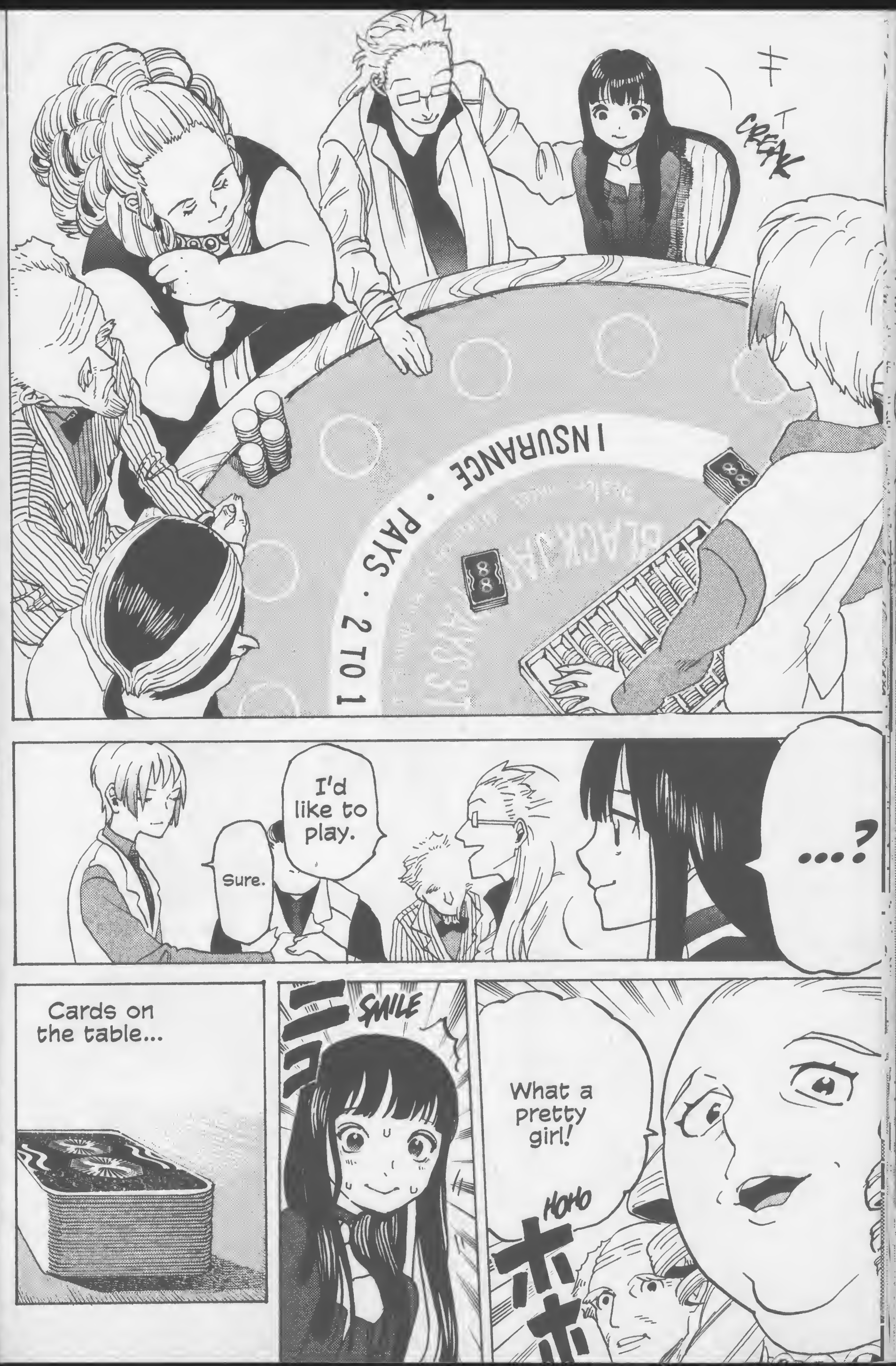


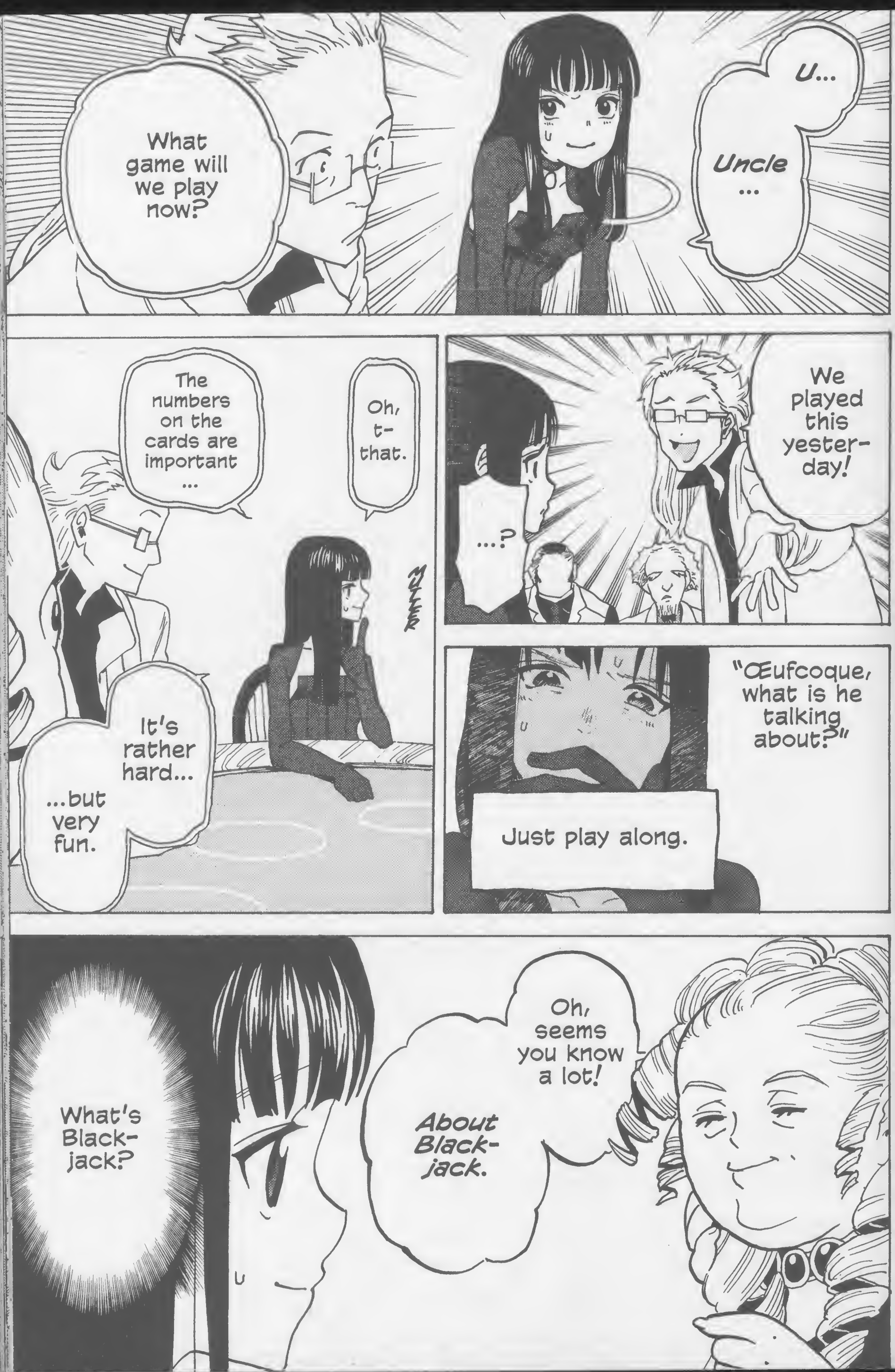

...
FSSSH
TURN
キョロ
TURN
キョロ
SPIN
...
VRRR

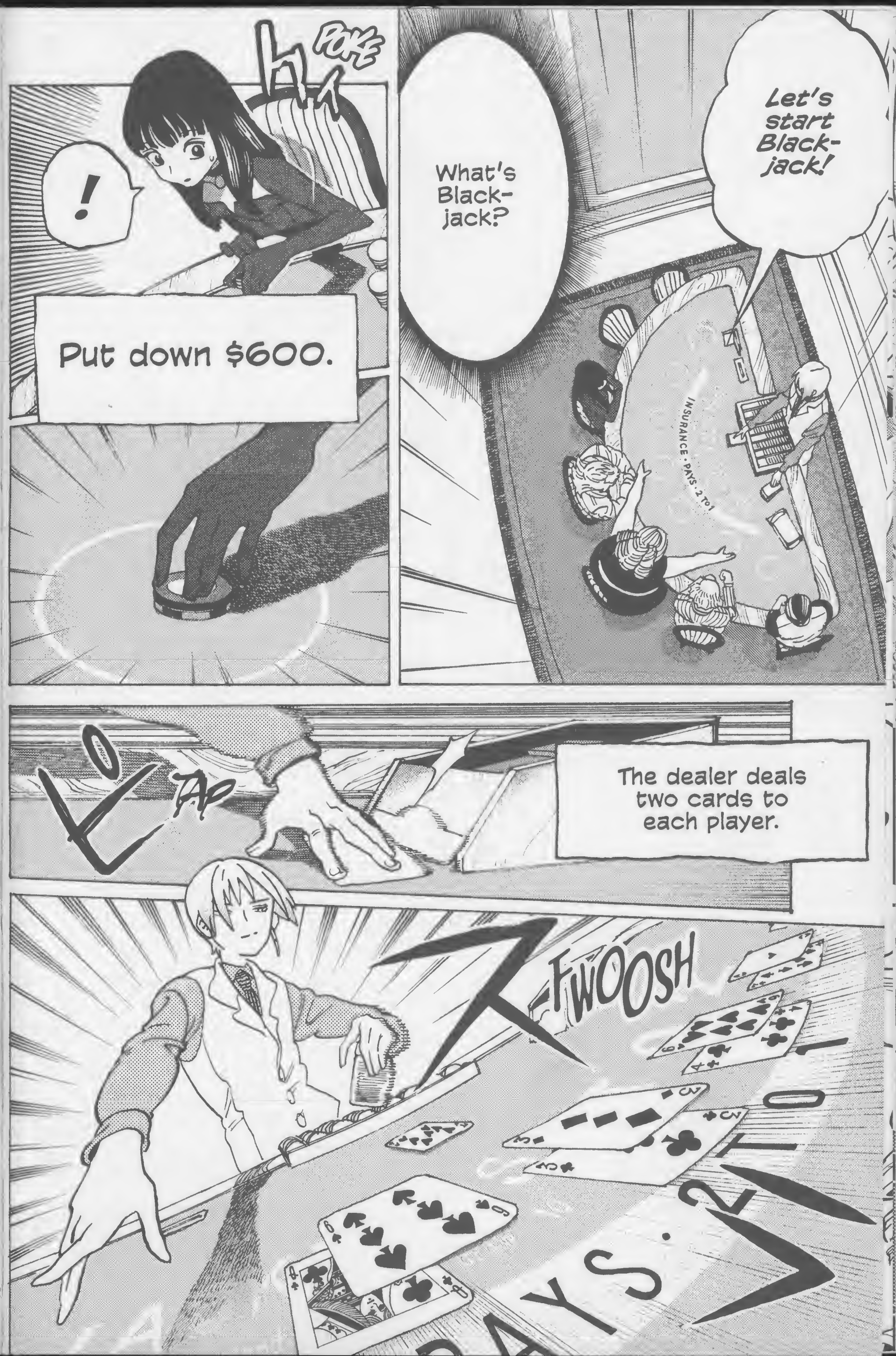

TUN
TUN
VRRR
Forc
VRRR
VRRR
VRRR
VRRR
VRRR
VRRR
...
VRR
VRR
VRRR
VRRR
Over here!
You were gone awhile!

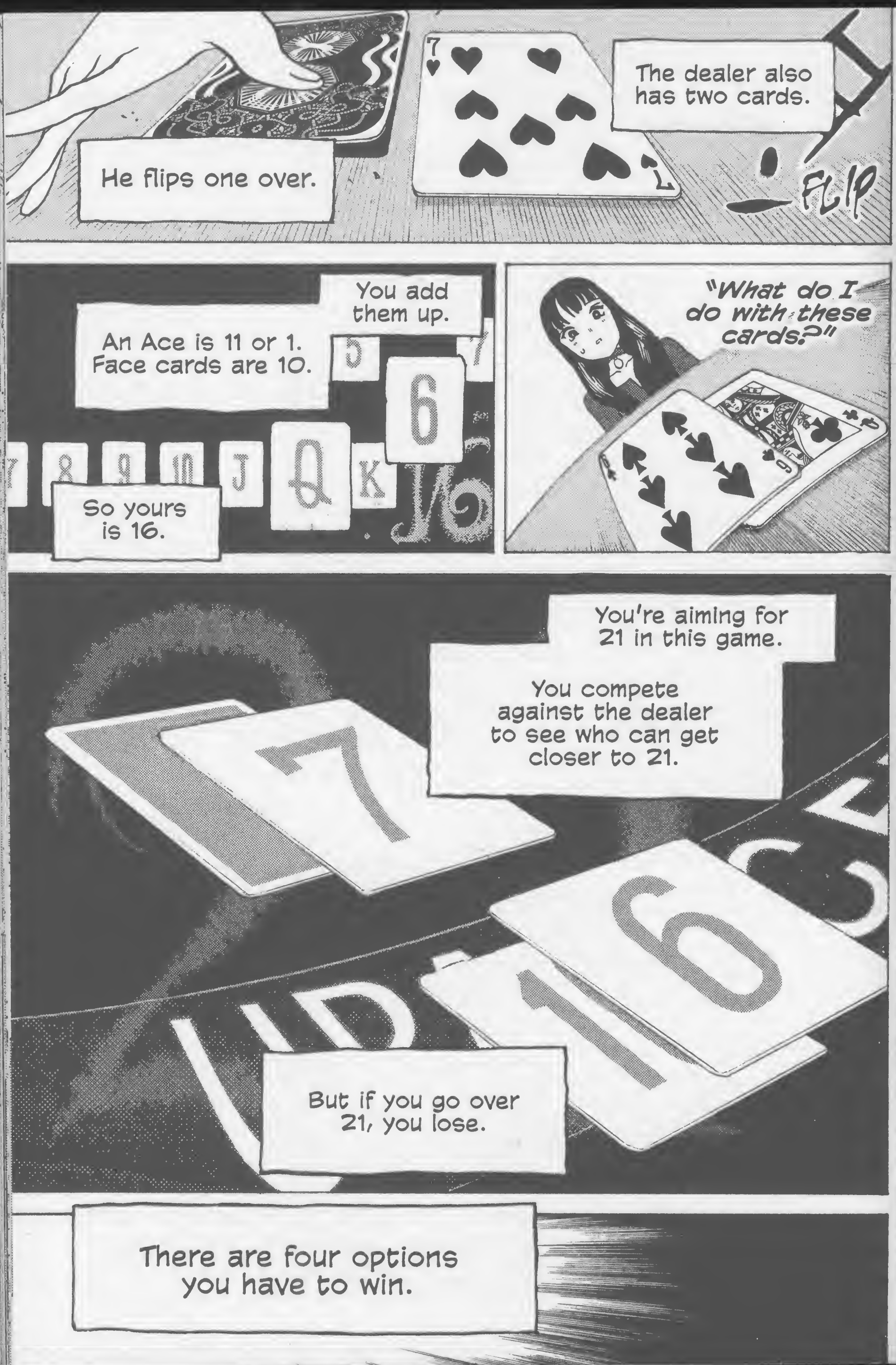

There are 3 cameras in the toilet!
4 on the ceiling, 9 in the north and 10 in the south!
I counted 46 total since we've been here!
What's the matter?
They've got that many on you?
You drew too much attention during roulette.
Speaking of which, look!
We won $1,000,000!
Not so loud!
Hmph.
Let's go.
Where?
Just follow me.

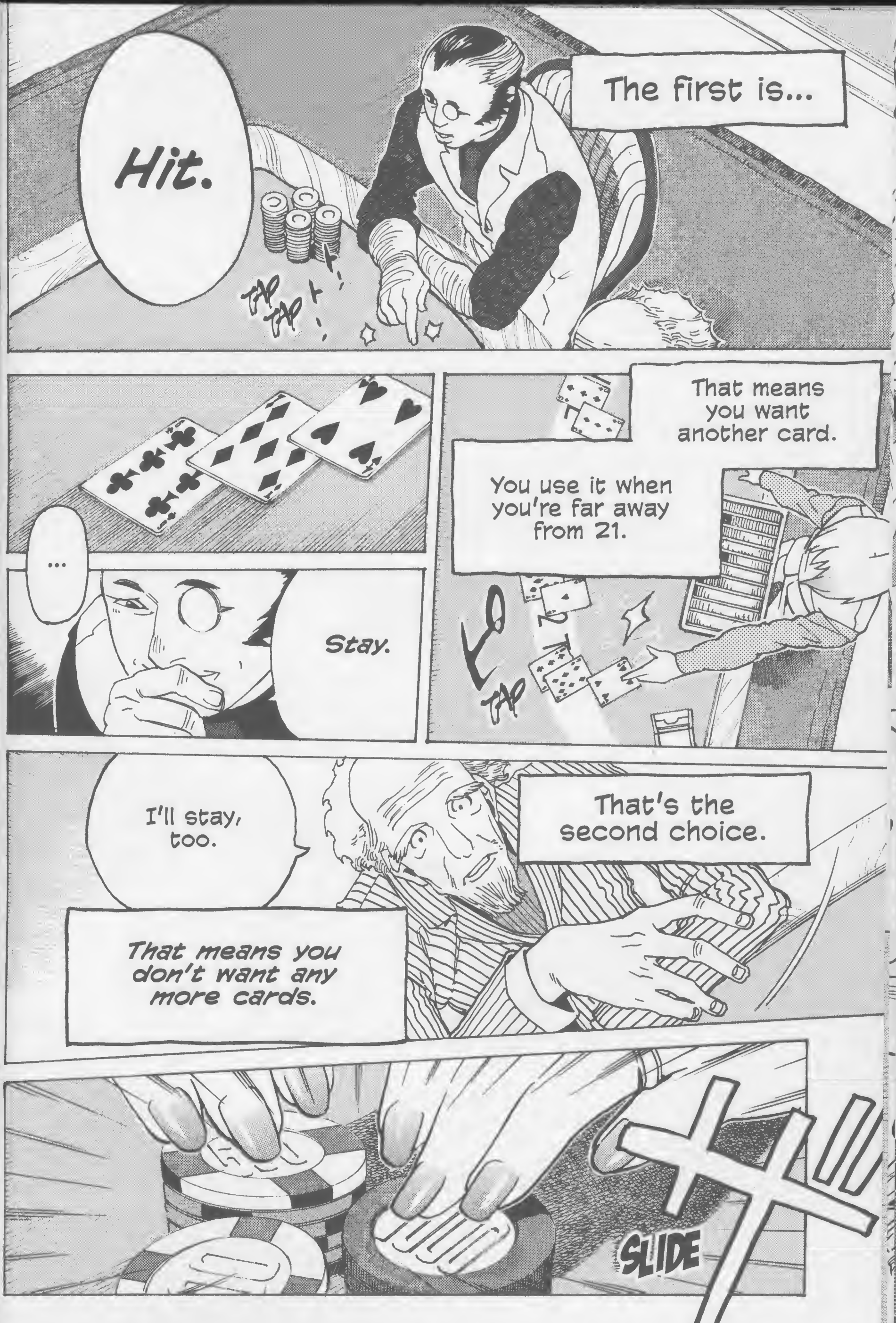

Open this door.
?
CREAK
What is this?
The VIP room.
How about ...
...you sit here.

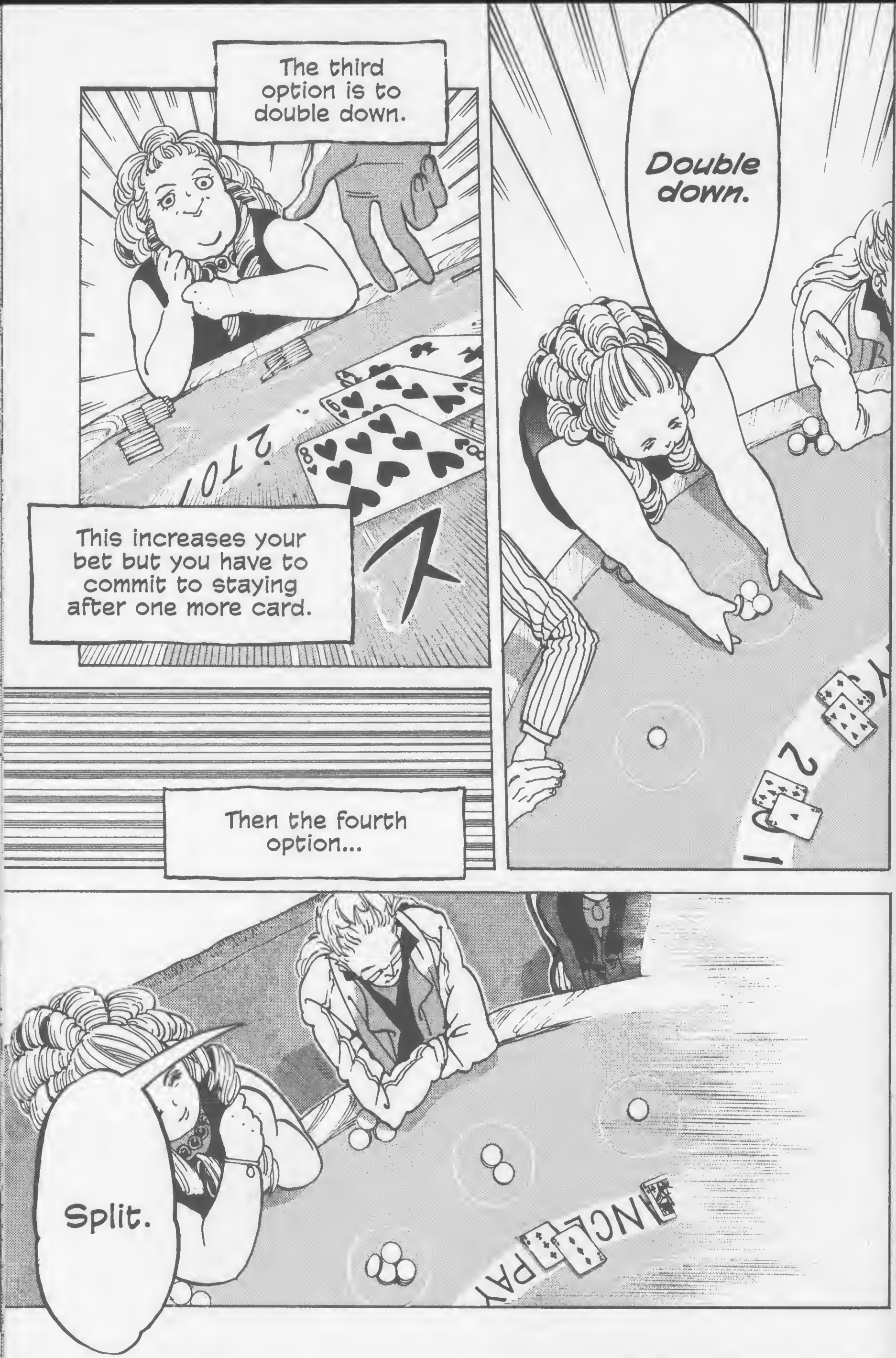

CREAK
INSURANCE · PAYS · 2 TO 1
BLACKJACK PAYS 3 TO 2
...?
I'd like to play.
Sure.
What a pretty girl!
HOHO
SMILE
Cards on the table...

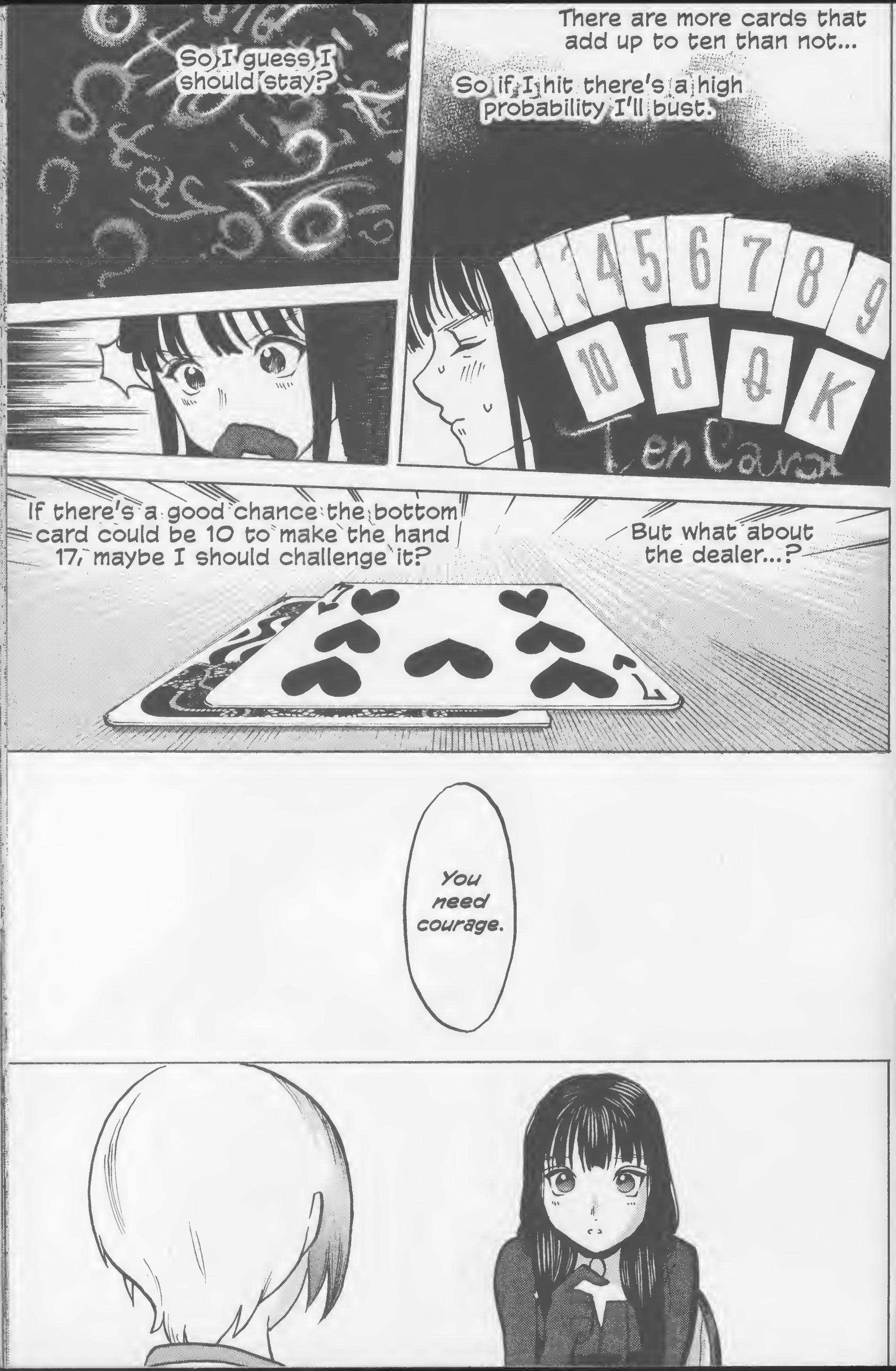

U...
Uncle ...
What game will we play now?
We played this yester-day!
...?
"Œufcoque, what is he talking about?"
Just play along.
Oh, t-that.
The numbers on the cards are important ...
MUTTER
It's rather hard...
...but very fun.
Oh, seems you know a lot!
About Black-jack.
What's Black-jack?

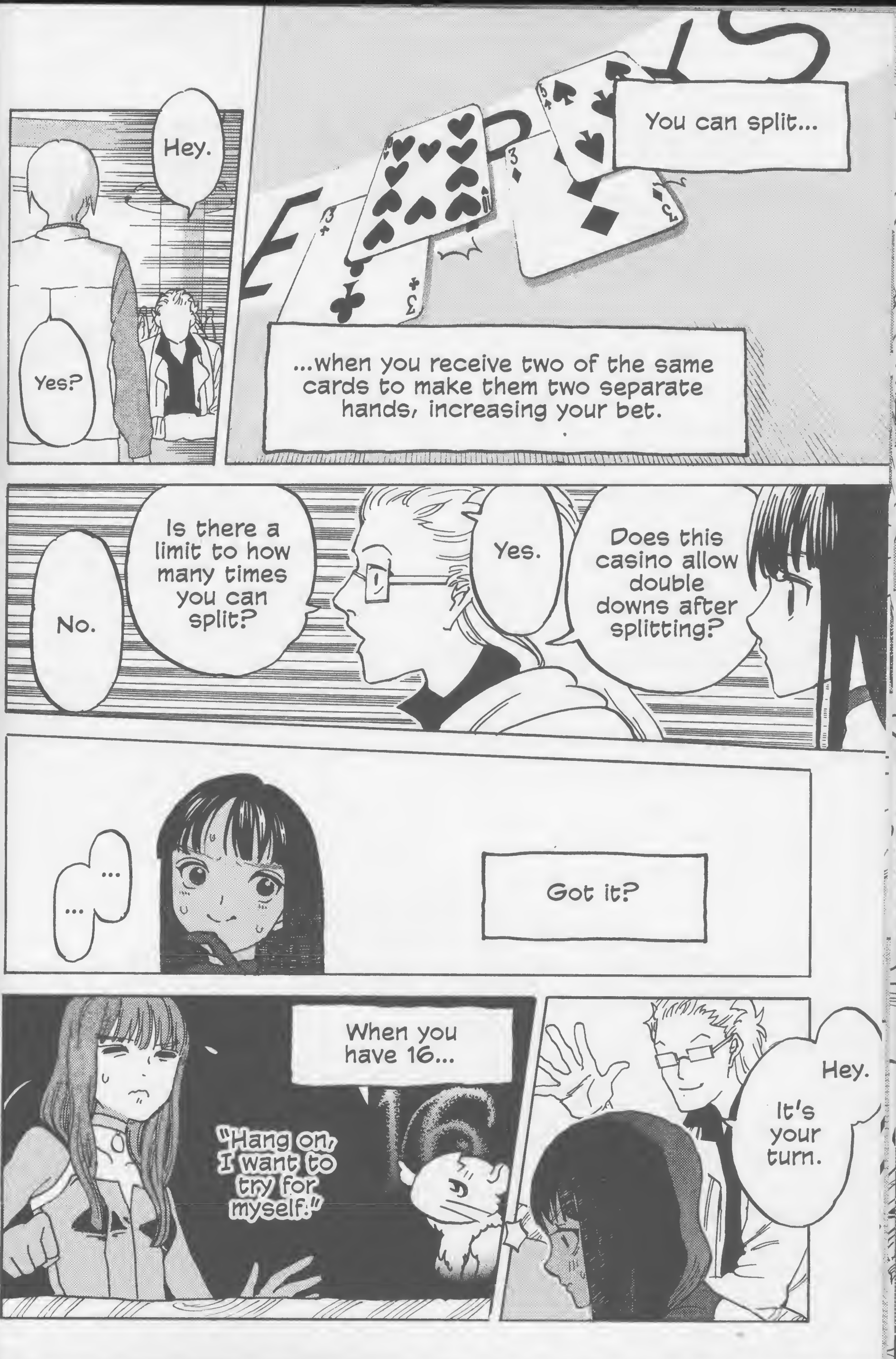

Let's start Blackjack!
What's Blackjack?
INSURANCE · PAYS · 2 TO 1
POKE
!
Put down $600.
TAP
The dealer deals two cards to each player.
FWOOSH
PAYS 2 TO 1

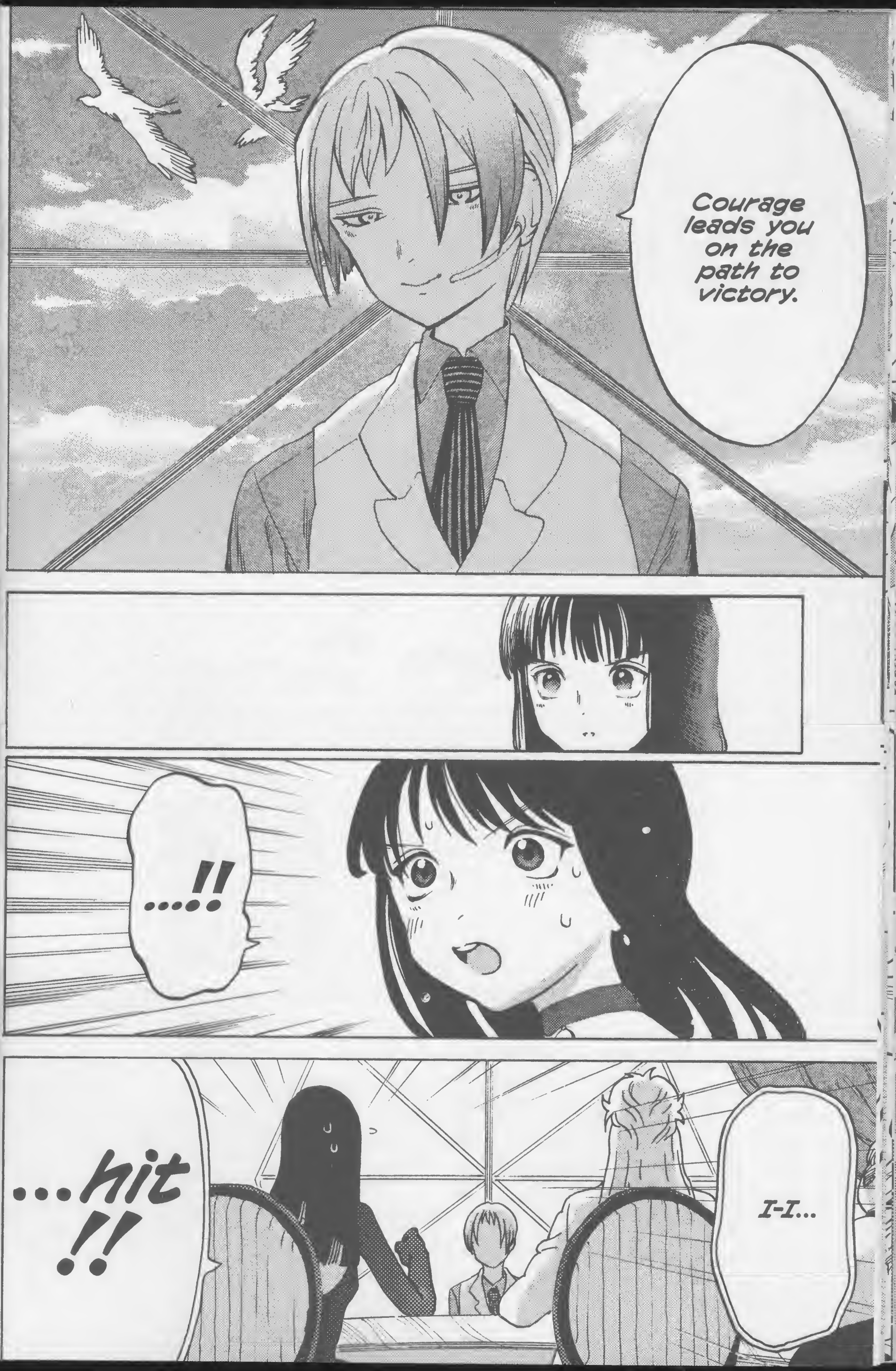

The dealer also has two cards.
FLIP
He flips one over.
"What do I do with these cards?"
You add them up.
An Ace is 11 or 1. Face cards are 10.
So yours is 16.
You're aiming for 21 in this game.
You compete against the dealer to see who can get closer to 21.
But if you go over 21, you lose.
There are four options you have to win.

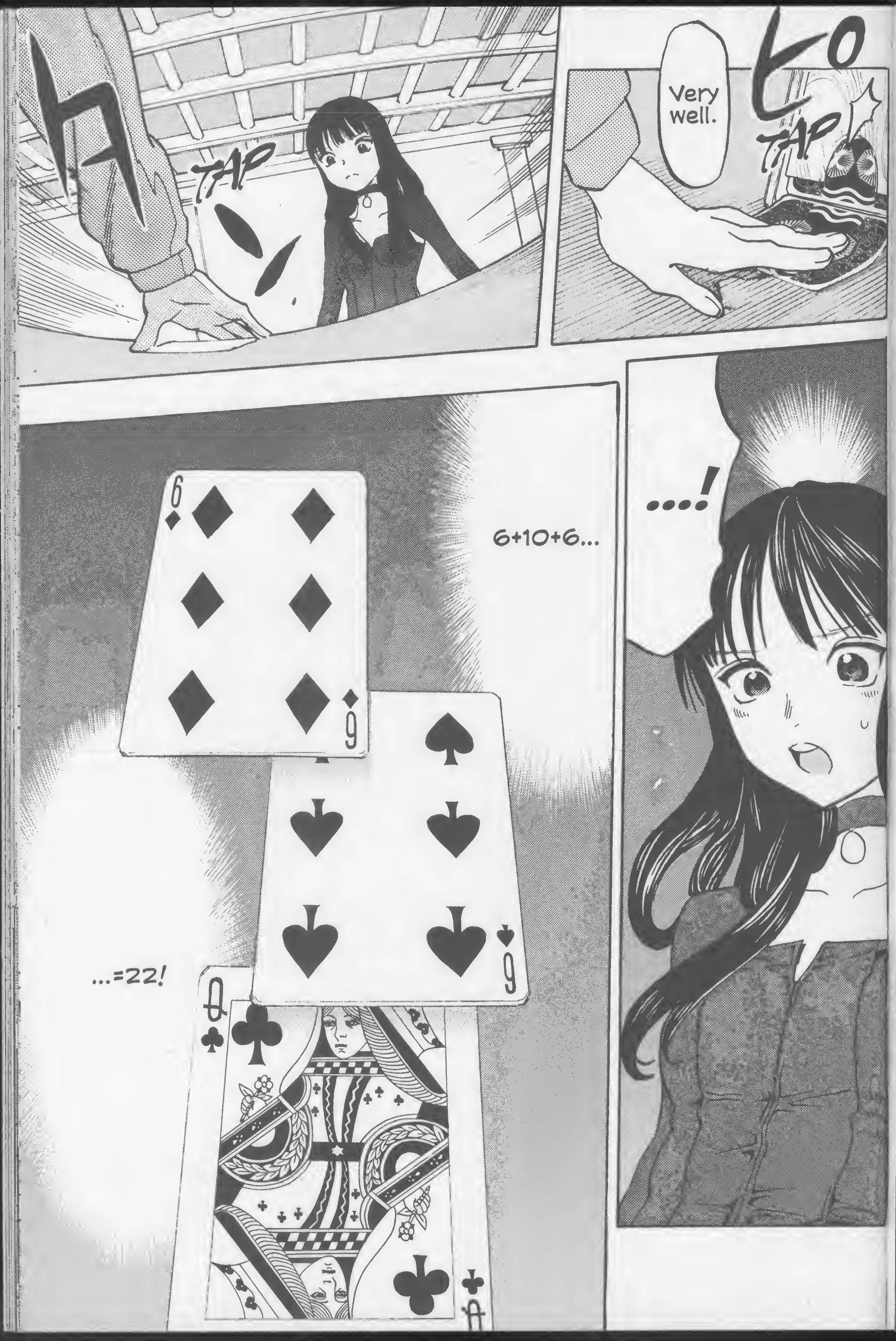

The first is...
Hit.
TAP TAP
That means you want another card.
You use it when you're far away from 21.
TAP
...
Stay.
That's the second choice.
I'll stay, too.
That means you don't want any more cards.
SLIDE

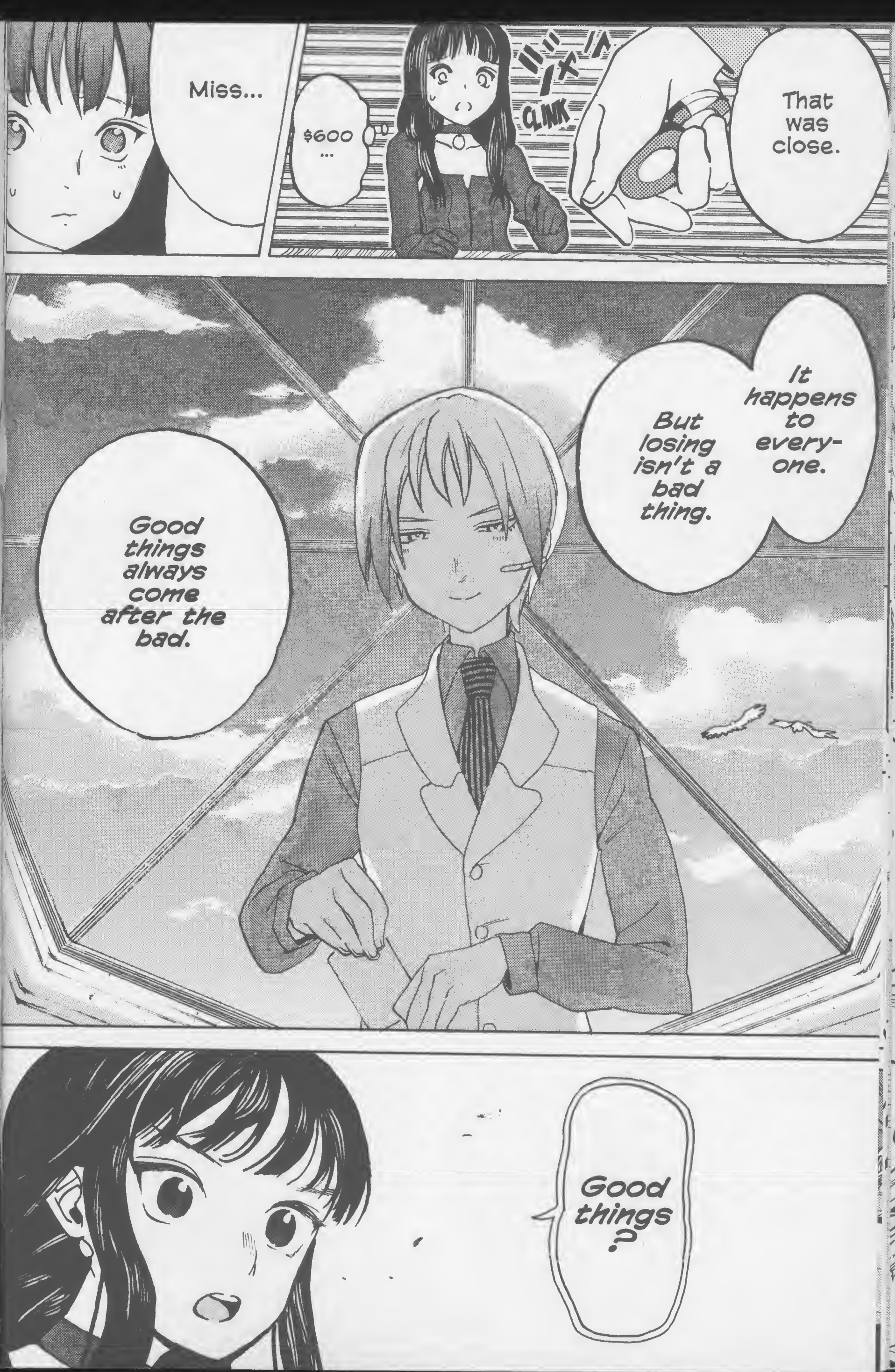

Double down.
The third option is to double down.
This increases your bet but you have to commit to staying after one more card.
Then the fourth option...
Split.

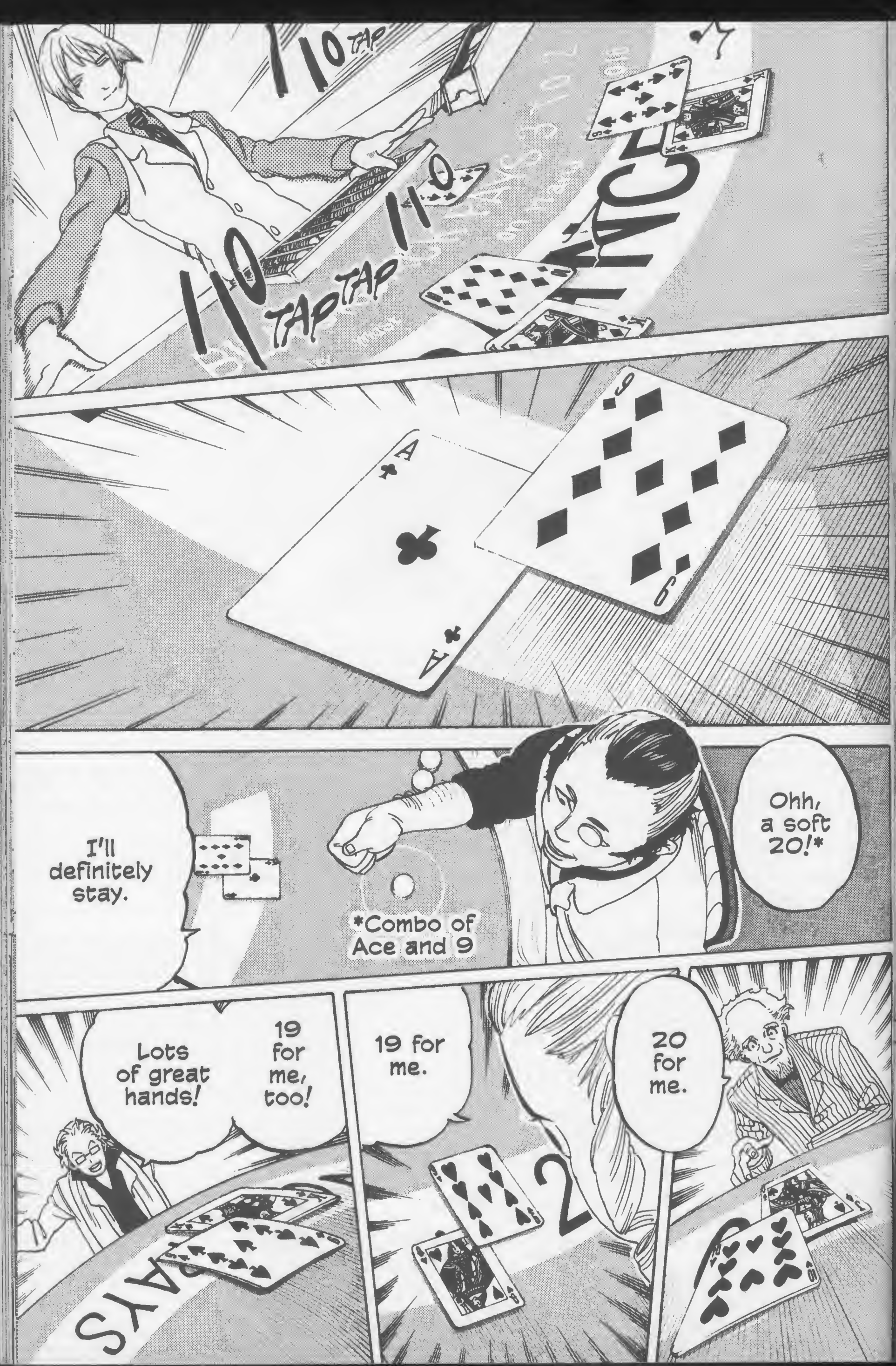

So I guess I should stay?
There are more cards that add up to ten than not...
So if I hit there's a high probability I'll bust.
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
10 J Q K
Ten Cards
If there's a good chance the bottom card could be 10 to make the hand 17, maybe I should challenge it?
But what about the dealer...?
You need courage.

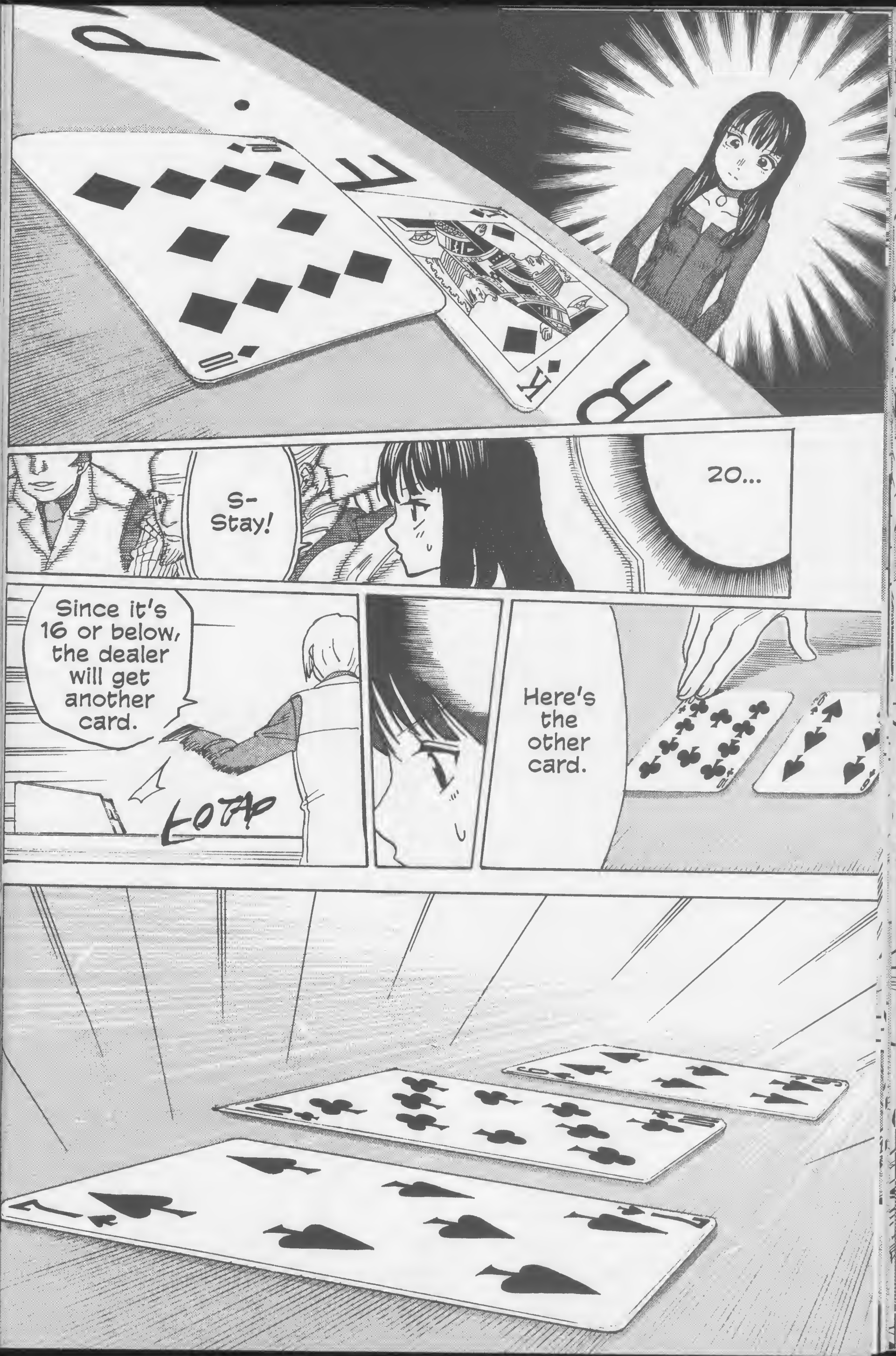

Hey.
Yes?
You can split...
...when you receive two of the same cards to make them two separate hands, increasing your bet.
Does this casino allow double downs after splitting?
Yes.
Is there a limit to how many times you can split?
No.
...
...
Got it?
When you have 16...
"Hang on, I want to try for myself."
16
Hey.
It's your turn.

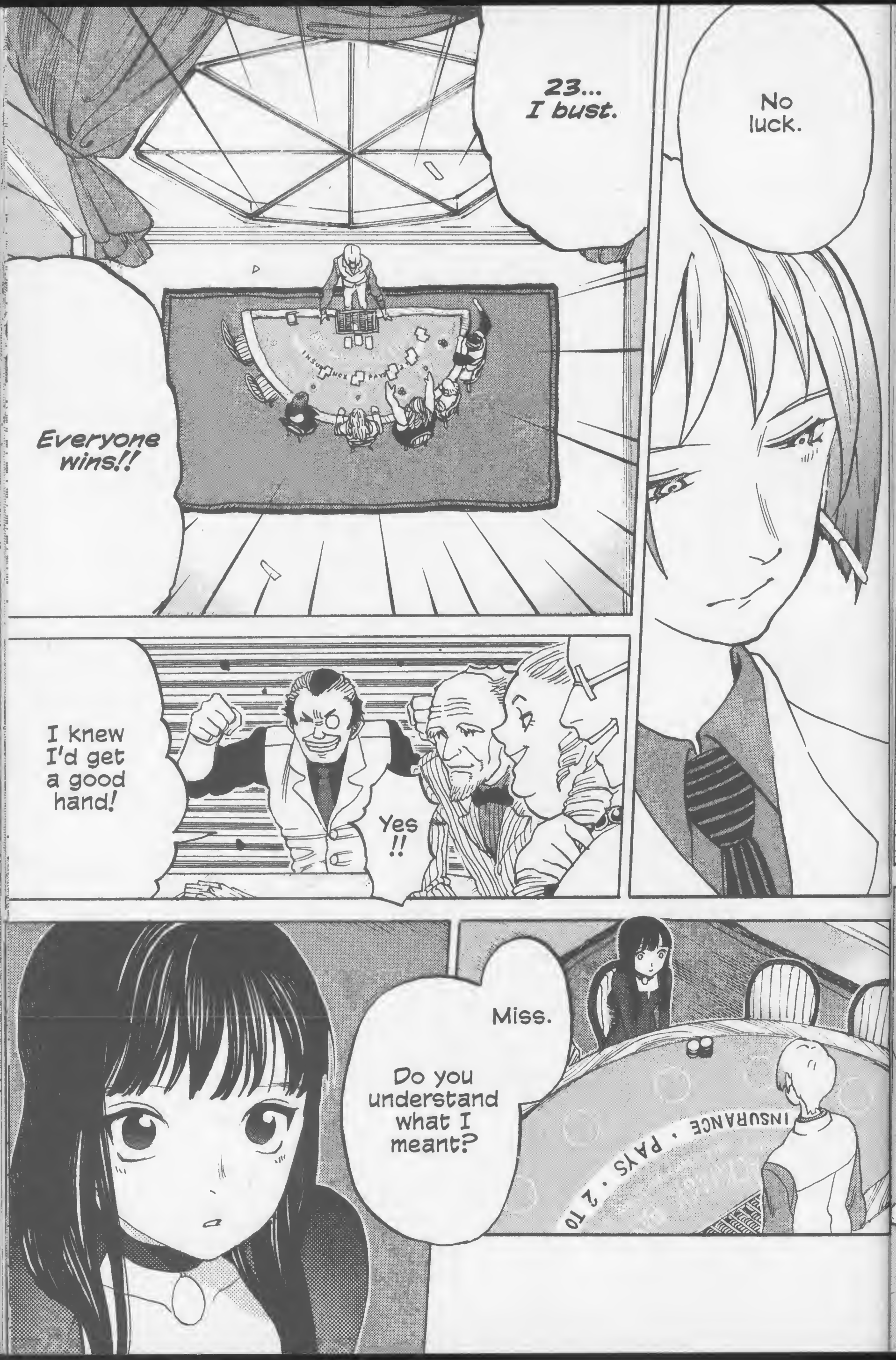

Courage leads you on the path to victory.
...!!
I-I...
...hit!!

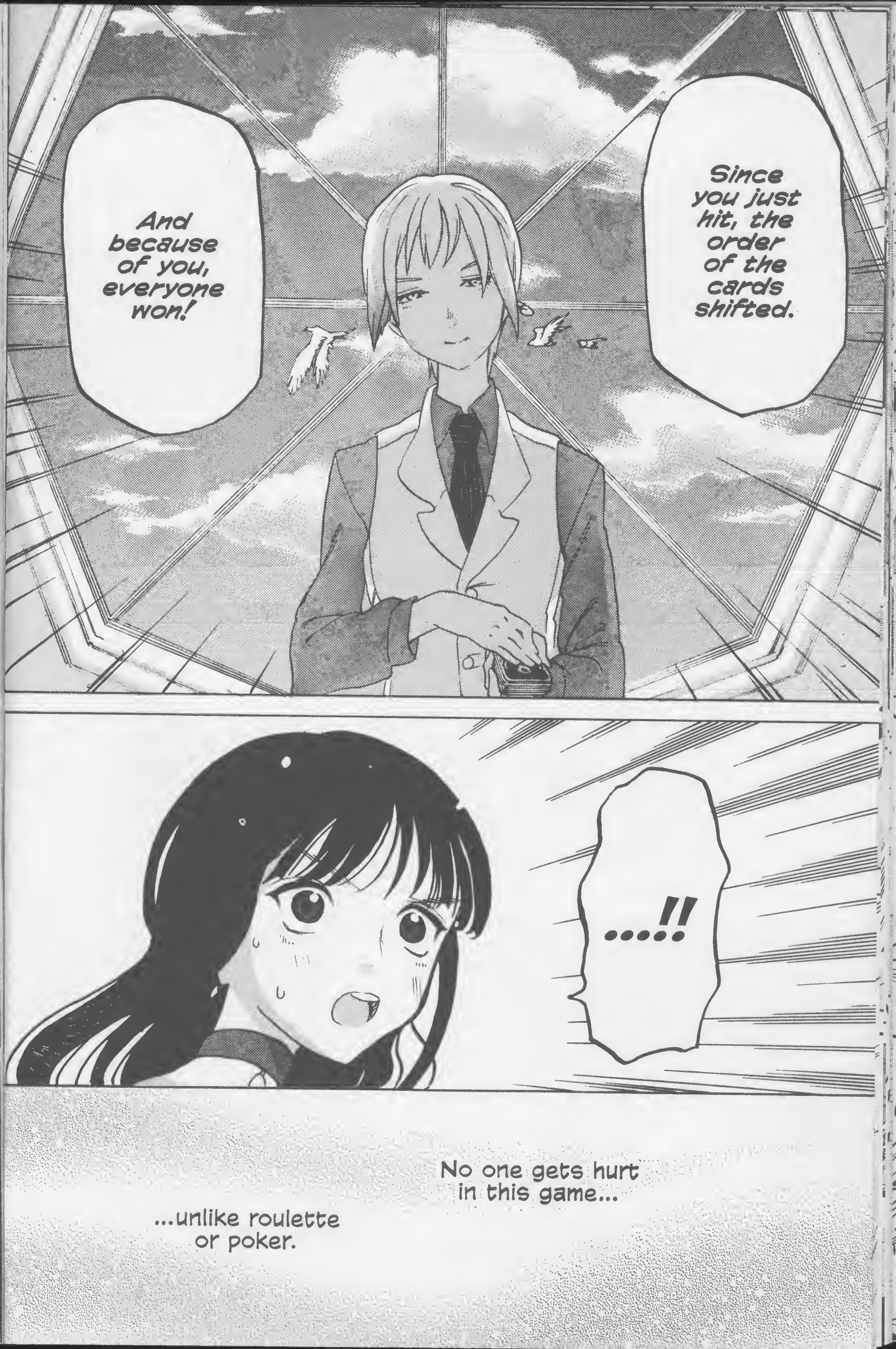

Very well.
TAP
TAP!
...!
6+10+6...
...=22!

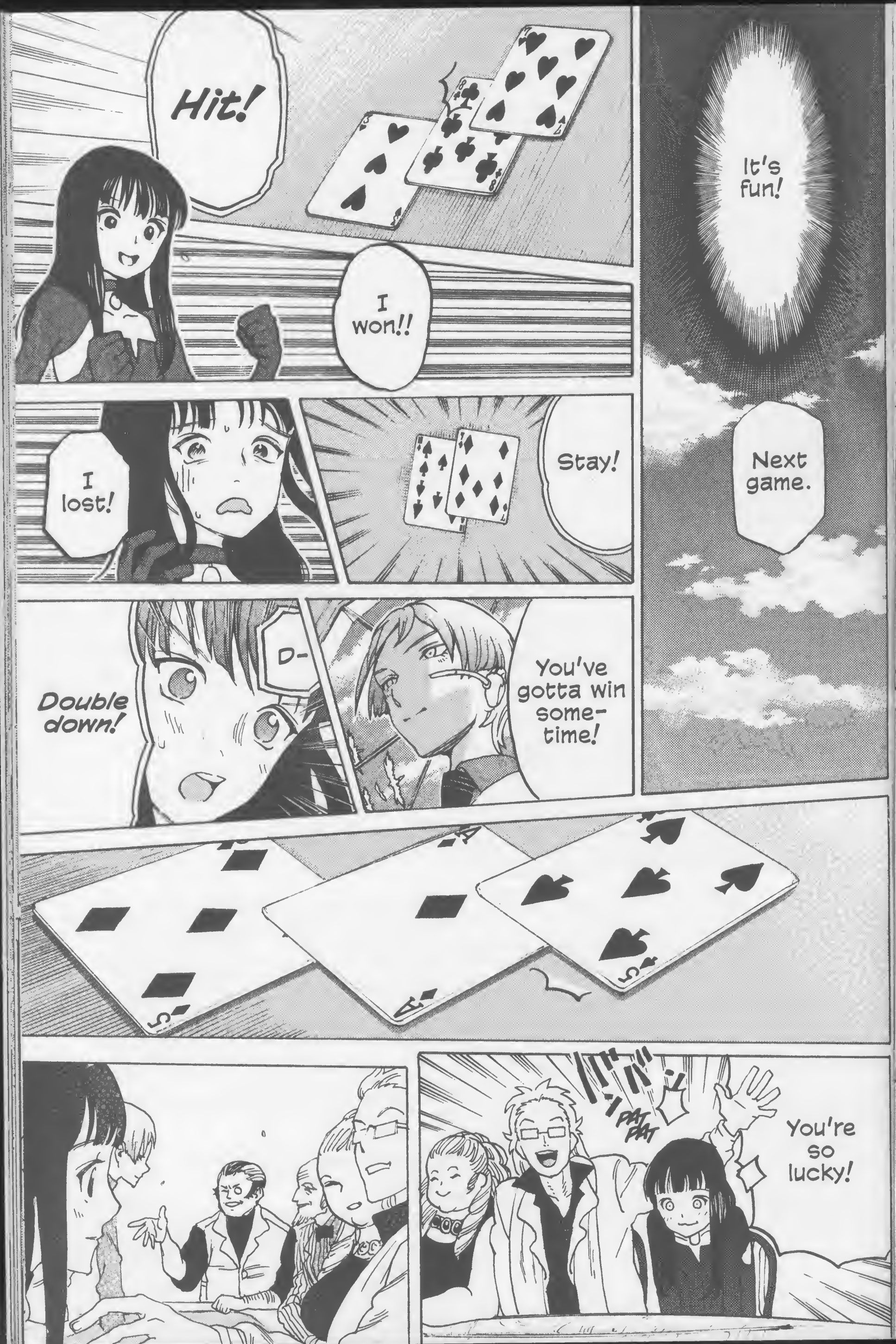

That was close.
CLINK
$600...
Miss...
It happens to everyone.
But losing isn't a bad thing.
Good things always come after the bad.
Good things?

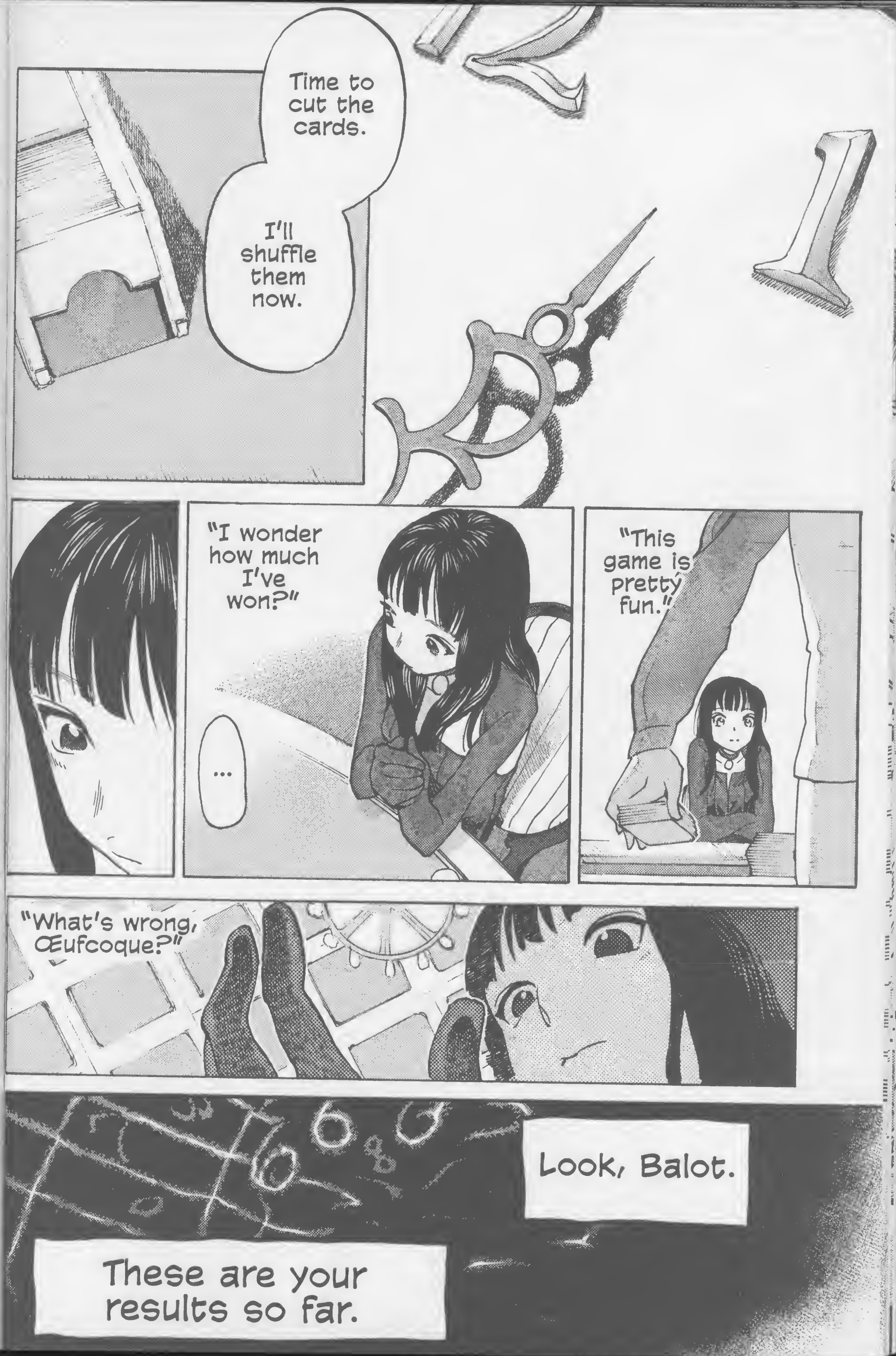

TAP
TAP TAP
Ohh, a soft 20!*
I'll definitely stay.
*Combo of Ace and 9
20 for me.
19 for me.
19 for me, too!
Lots of great hands!

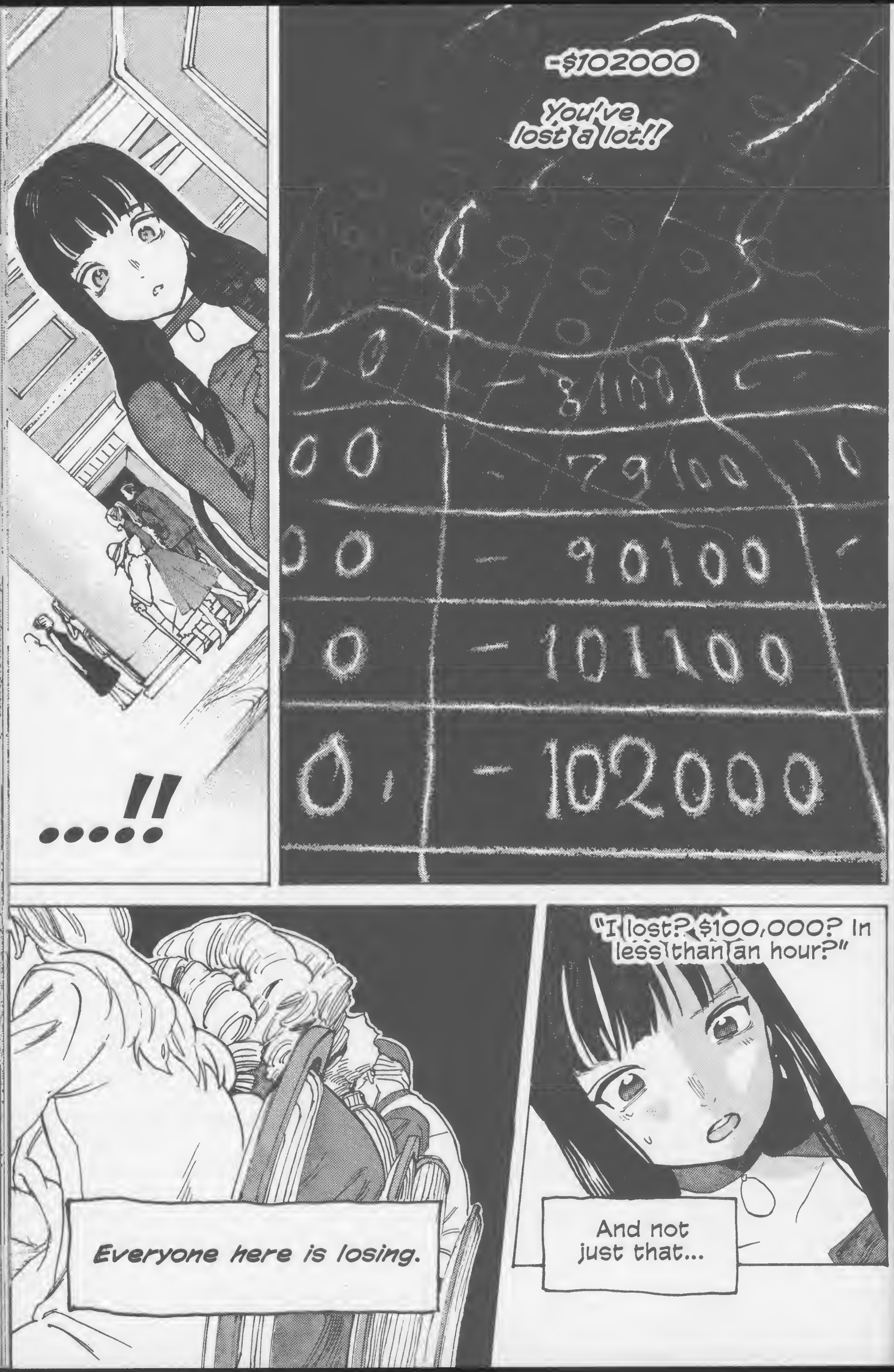

20...
S-Stay!
Here's the other card.
Since it's 16 or below, the dealer will get another card.
TOTAP

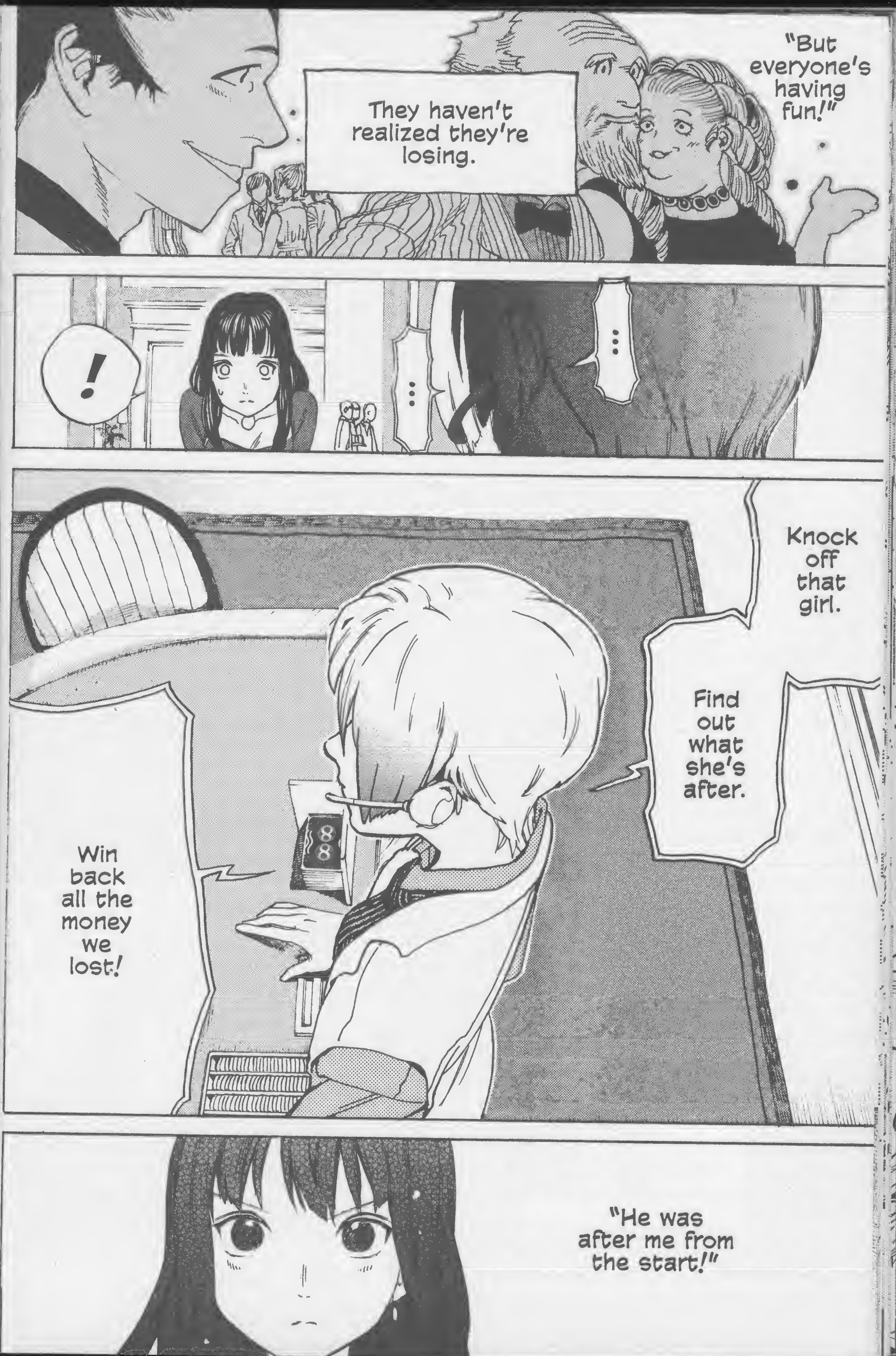

23... I bust.
No luck.
Everyone wins!!
I knew I'd get a good hand!
Yes!!
Miss.
Do you understand what I meant?
INSURANCE · PAYS · 2 TO

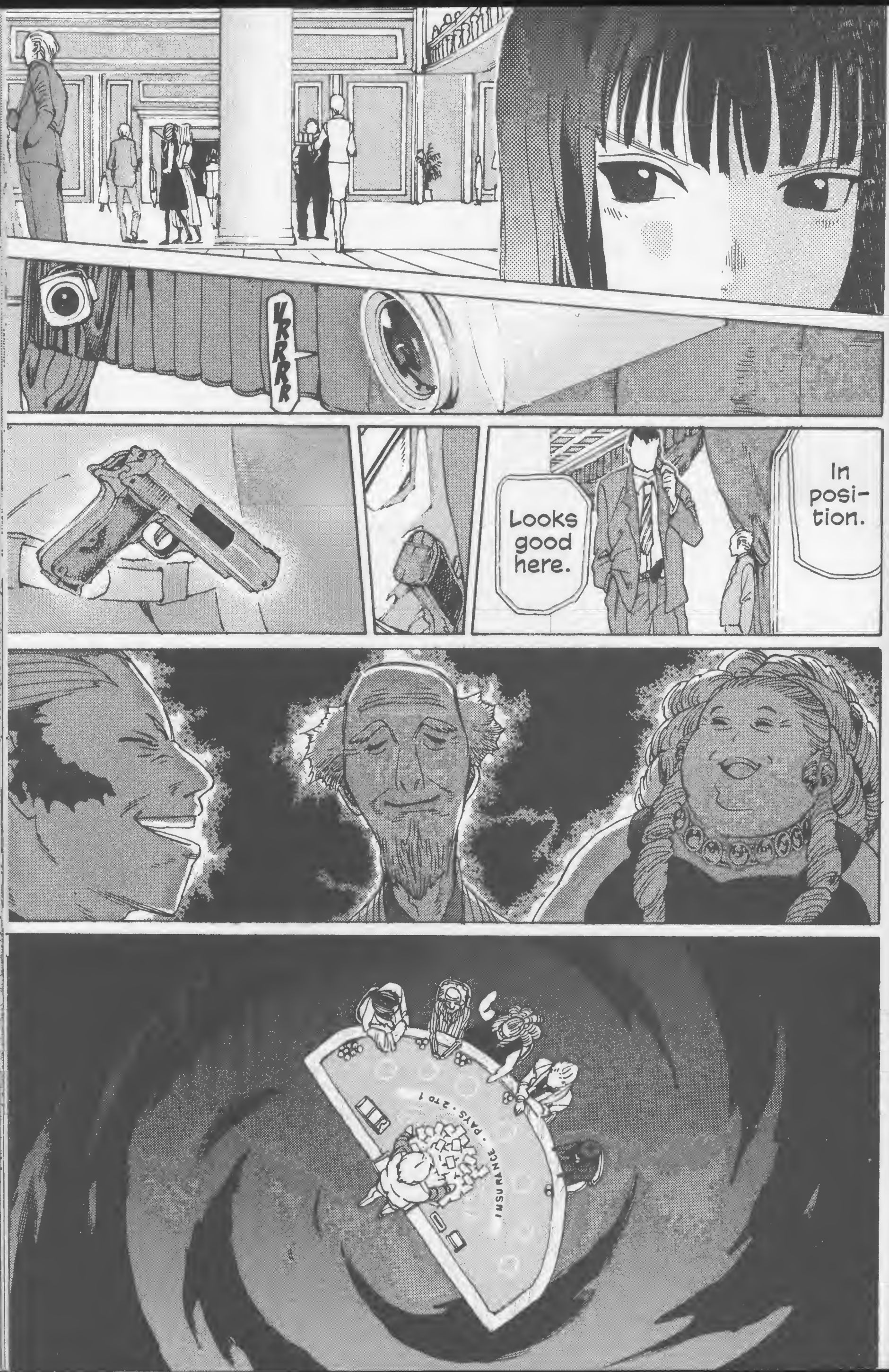

Since you just hit, the order of the cards shifted.
And because of you, everyone won!
...!!
No one gets hurt in this game...
...unlike roulette or poker.

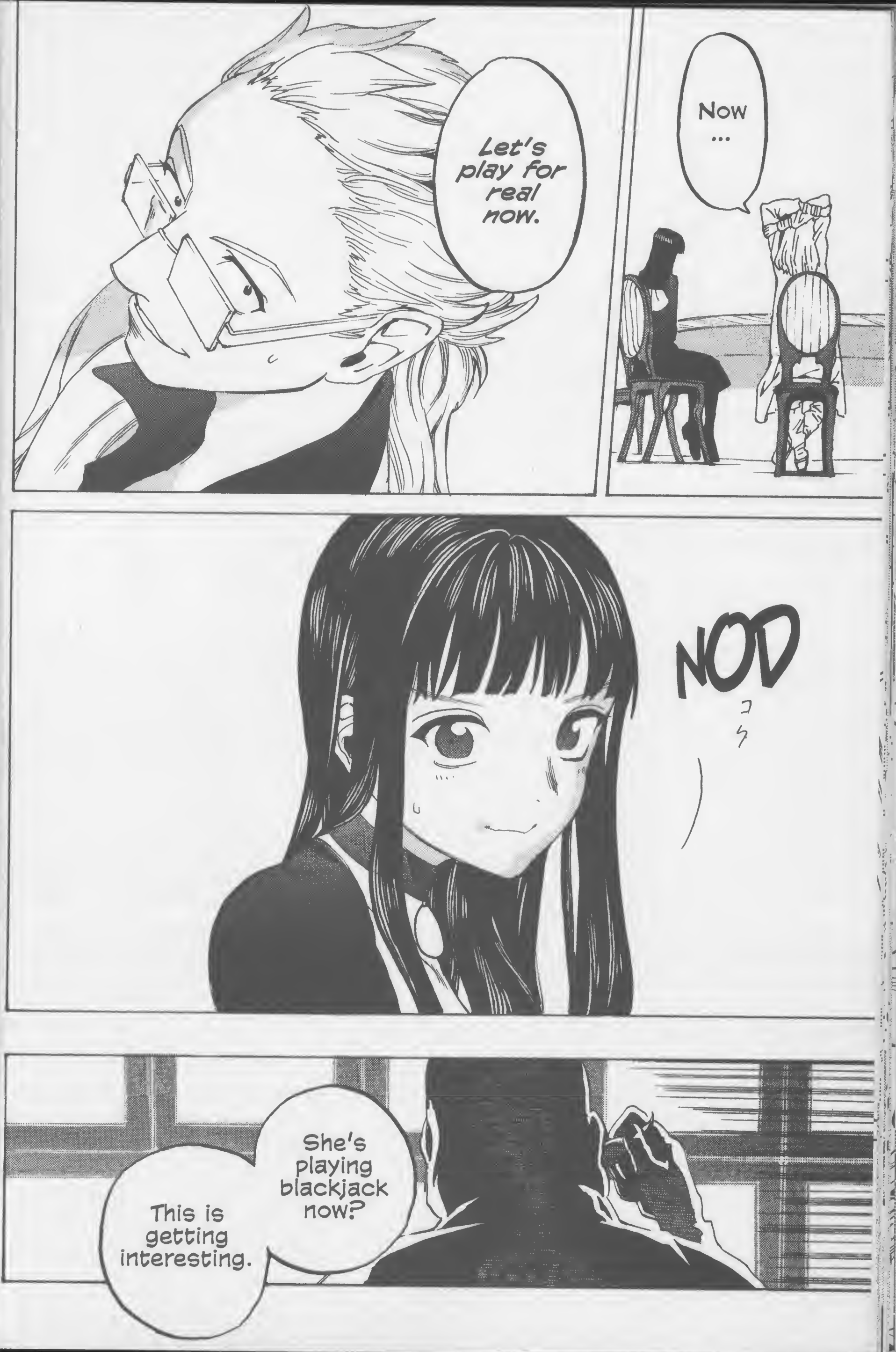

It's fun!
Next game.
Hit!
I won!!
Stay!
I lost!
You've gotta win some-time!
D-
Double down!
PAT PAT
You're so lucky!

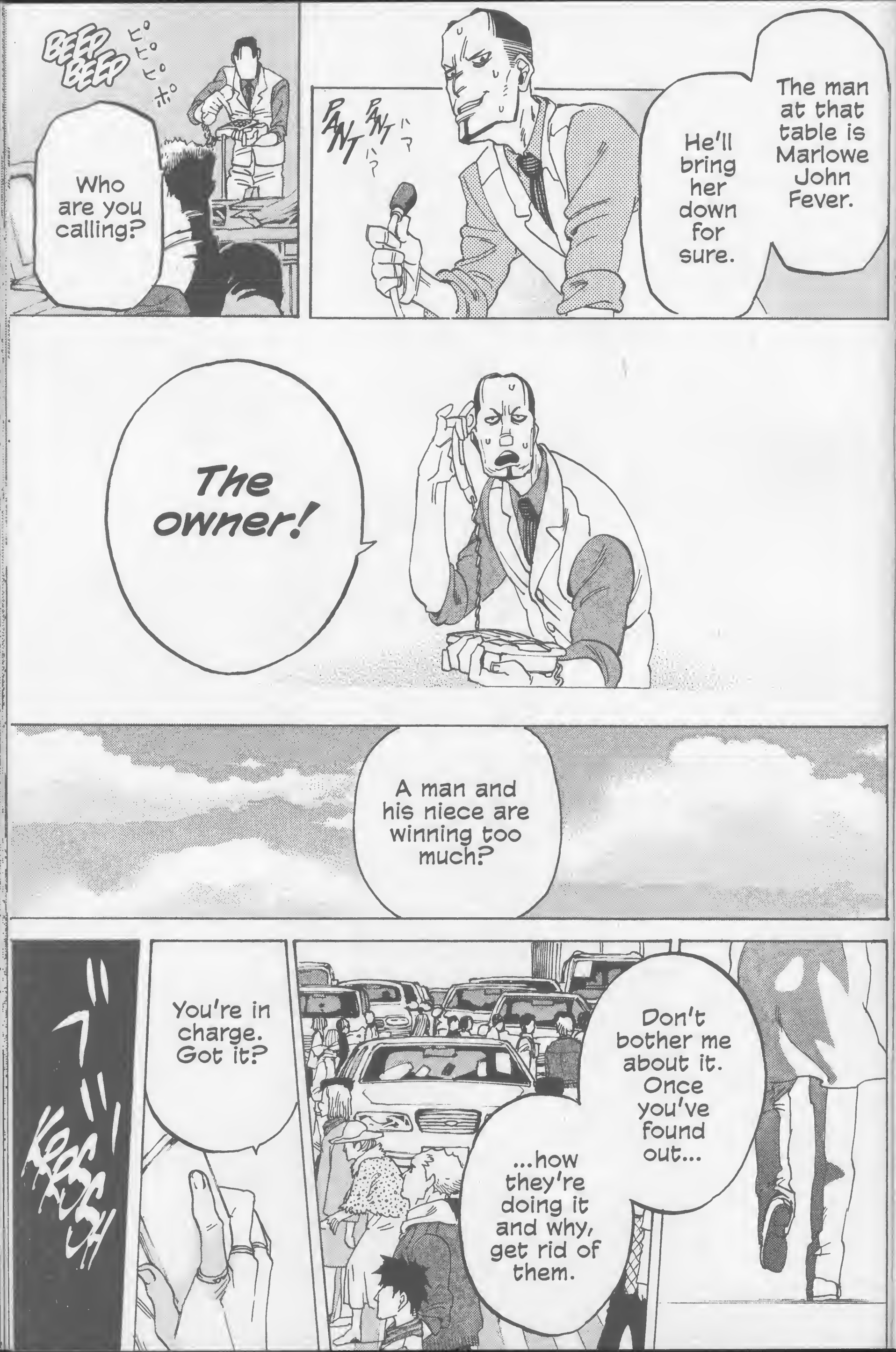

Time to cut the cards.
I'll shuffle them now.
"This game is pretty fun."
"I wonder how much I've won?"
...
"What's wrong, Œufcoque?"
Look, Balot.
These are your results so far.

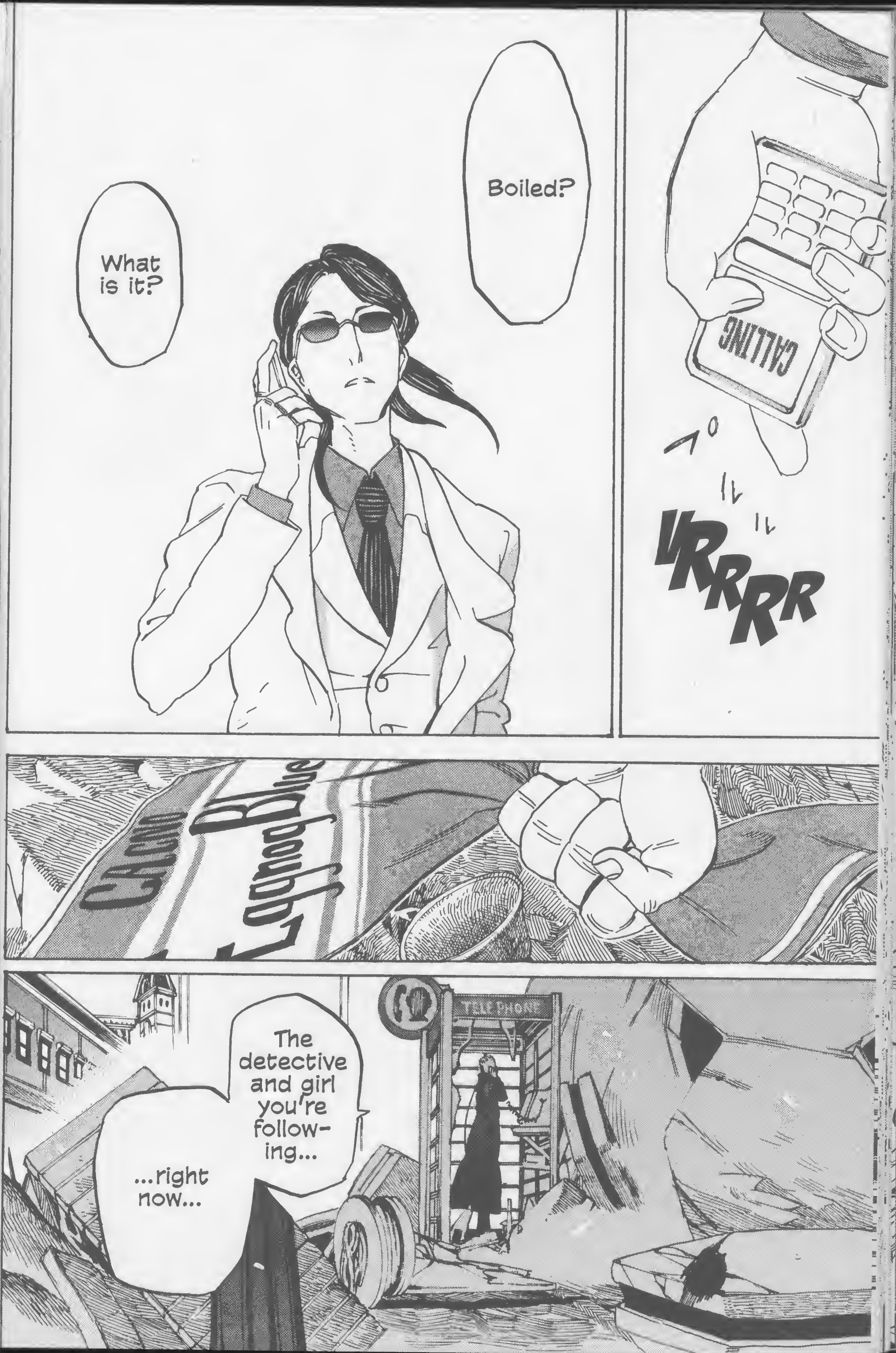

-$102000
You've lost a lot!!
81100
-79100
-90100
-101100
-102000
....!!
"I lost? $100,000? In less than an hour?"
And not just that...
Everyone here is losing.

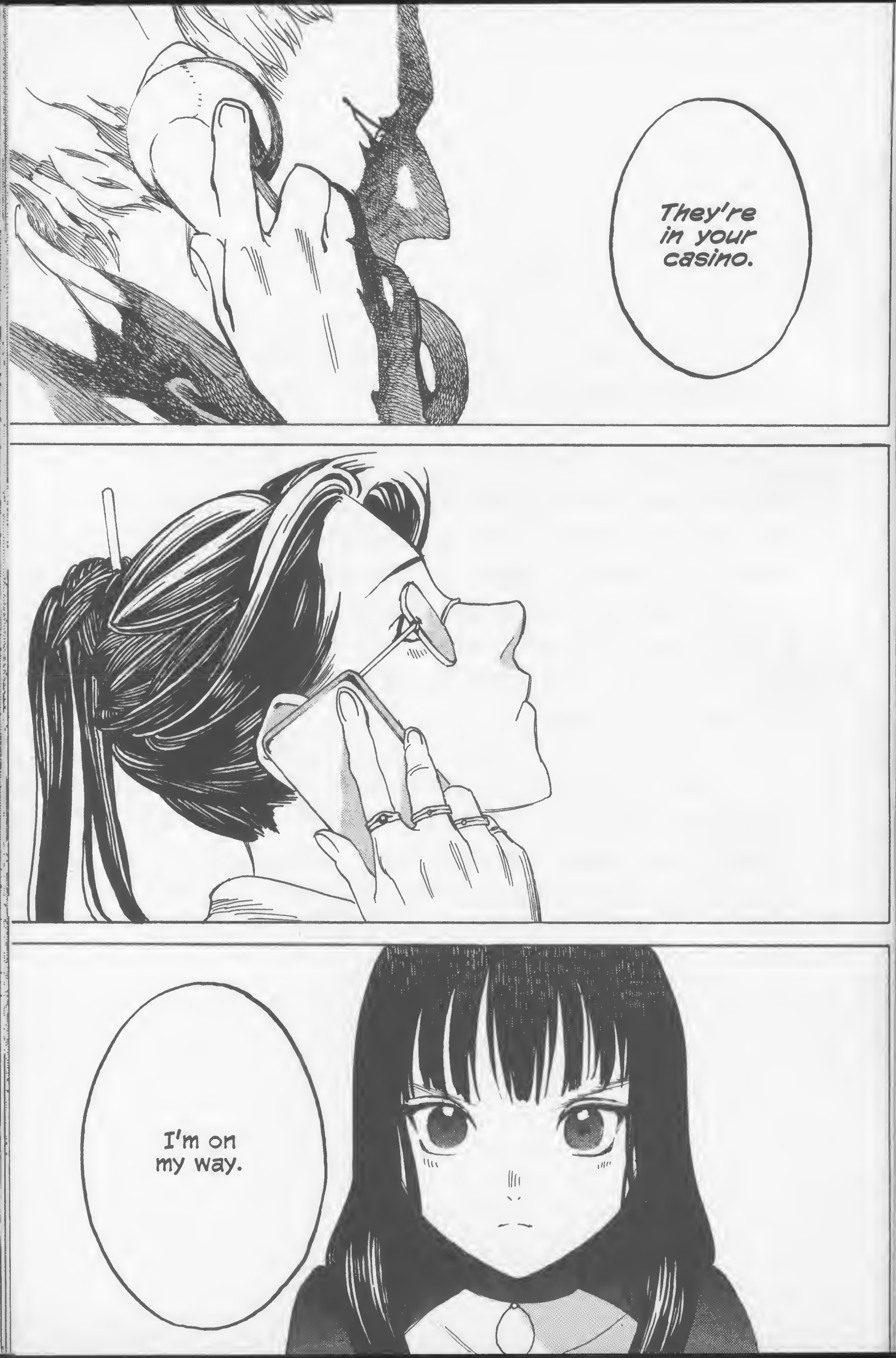

"But everyone's having fun!"
They haven't realized they're losing.
...
...
!
Knock off that girl.
Find out what she's after.
Win back all the money we lost!
"He was after me from the start!"


VRRRR
In position.
Looks good here.
INSURANCE
PAYS 2 TO 1


Now ...
Let's play for real now.
NOD
コク
She's playing blackjack now?
This is getting interesting.


The man at that table is Marlowe John Fever.
He'll bring her down for sure.
PANT PANT
ハァ ハァ
BEEP BEEP
ピ ピ ピ ポ
Who are you calling?
The owner!
A man and his niece are winning too much?
Don't bother me about it. Once you've found out...
...how they're doing it and why, get rid of them.
You're in charge. Got it?
KRSSH


CALLING
プルル
VRRRR
Boiled?
What is it?
TELEPHONE
The detective and girl you're following...
...right now...


They're in your casino.
I'm on my way.

Finally, the casino issue! It was the most difficult yet most enjoyable part to write in the original. I'm quite attached to Belle Wing, and I think Oima's depiction of her is amazing. I hope you enjoy this exciting 5th volume!

-Creator
Tow Ubukata

The 5th volume, the casino issue! I wasn't very familiar with gambling, but now I feel like an expert! Thanks!

-Manga adaptation
Yoshitoki Oima

Translation Notes

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more art than science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the places where we could have gone in a different direction with our translation of the work, or where a Japanese cultural reference is used.

Snark, p. 7.1
Using the power of electrical stimulation to control all manner of devices.